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Middle-East Experts Jordan & Egypt MAZDA TOURS See back page

Yeltsin sacks Lebed as security chief

MOSCOW (AP) - President Boris Yeltsin ousted ambitious security chief Alexander Lebed yesterday, saying his behavior and outspokenness were damaging to the country.

A scowling Yeltsin, appearing on national television from the health spa where he is resting up for heart surgery, was angry as he spoke about Lebed and signed a decree removing him from his duties.

"I can't tolerate the situation any more," he said. "I have to relieve Gen. Lebed of his position as secretary of the Security Council."

The move came after weeks of bitter feuding between Lebed and other senior members of the government, culminating in charges this week that Lebed was plotting a coup.

Lebed's signing of a peace accord in Chechnya in August boosted his popularity among Russians, but met with harsh resistance from politicians, who accused him of selling out the Russian army.

His departure from the Kremlin should end the incessant bickering that has tied the government up in knots and created the widespread impression of chaos. It also will clear the way for Lebed to begin campaigning for the presidency job he has openly coveted, since Yeltsin is not expected to serve out his four-year term because of health problems.

But with Yeltsin unable to function fully because of his heart trouble, the government is likely to remain weak, beset by internal squabbling and external criticism, that will now be boosted by Lebed.

Lebed said he would "get some sleep" and then begin to "prepare for possible presidential elections."

He said at a news conference that he was not offended by his dismissal, saying, "I'm so thick-skinned, and I have long since stopped being offended."

Lebed blamed his ouster on Yeltsin's chief-of-staff Anatoly Chubais.

"I was very much in his way," he said.

Yeltsin did not say whether he believed the mutiny charges - denied firmly by Lebed and questioned by top lawmakers. But he accused him of excessive ambition and complained that Lebed, during the less than four months he was in the job, had made decisions without consulting the president and the rest of the government.

"During this time he made a series of mistakes which have been unacceptable for Russia and damaging," Yeltsin said. "There must be a united team. The team must work as a single fist."

Lebed attempted to resign several weeks ago, but at the time Yeltsin urged him to be patient and learn to get along with others.

But in light of recent developments, Yeltsin said it was clear Lebed had not learned to work with others and he was accepting his resignation.

Katsav to oversee the Arab sector

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu plans to appoint Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav to oversee the Arab sector, Channel 2 reported last night.

Netanyahu is expected to announce the appointment at today's cabinet meeting. He reportedly made the decision after recent complaints that he is out of touch with the Arab community.

Labor Party secretary-general MK Nissim Zvilli said the appointment is a step backwards that would create a dangerous separation between Arabs and Jews.

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Kiryat Arba residents attempt to erect a barbed-wire fence around a piece of land adjoining the settlement. The work was stopped by the civil administration.

Netanyahu promises to advance settlement expansion plans

BILL HUTMAN

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu promised last night to personally push forward development plans for settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, which settlement leaders had charged the government was holding up, sources at a meeting between the prime minister and settlement leaders said.

The prime minister agreed to specific development projects in the settlements, including both populating existing housing units that were kept empty under the previous government, and building new housing at several sites, the sources said.

Settlement leaders left the hour-long meeting saying that it would soon be apparent whether Netanyahu would act in accordance with his stated position that the Oslo Accords do not preclude expanding settlements.

Nissan Slomiansky, a senior member of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said the council would put its anti-government protest plans announced earlier this week on hold because of the commitment given by Netanyahu.

"I feel much better now," Slomiansky said

after the meeting. "We explained the situation to the prime minister, and he gave us his word that things would be done. Now, we have to wait and see if he sticks to what he said."

"Things should start moving soon," Slomiansky said.

National Religious Party members also were present at the meeting.

"The test will be in what actions take place on the ground," NRP MK Hanan Porat said, afterwards.

He said participants agreed to keep secret the specifics of the projects.

"I believe it is only a matter of days before we will begin to see the positive results of this meeting," Porat said.

Hebrew was not discussed at the meeting, the sources said. Earlier in the day, however, settlement leaders met in Jerusalem to make plans to protest any IDF redeployment in the city.

Despite Netanyahu's promises on settlement expansion, the council and several right-wing groups will likely go ahead with these protests,

including a large demonstration in Jerusalem at the end of the month, as the groups see the two issues as separate.

Hebron Jewish community spokesman Noam Arnon said the settlement leaders did not expect anything to happen soon with regard to redeployment, and therefore decided to wait until the end of the month to hold the demonstration.

Meanwhile, in Kiryat Arba, Jewish and Palestinian residents nearly came to blows after a group of Jewish residents tried to put a barbed-wire fence around an undeveloped tract of land adjoining the community.

Soldiers kept the two sides apart, and the settlers left the scene after the civil administration issued a stop-work order preventing them from building the fence, which the settlers claimed was on land within Kiryat Arba's jurisdiction.

Kiryat Arba Local Council head Zvi Katzover said the fence was meant to safeguard the community's land from Palestinians who might try to claim it, and said the civil administration had unfairly stopped the work.

Assad reportedly agrees to reopen talks

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

SYRIAN President Hafez Assad has sent Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu a message agreeing to reopen peace talks, Channel 2 reported last night. Senior government sources said the talks will begin after the US presidential elections next month.

The Prime Minister's Office declined comment on the report.

The report said Netanyahu aide Dore Gold met with retired US diplomat Edward Djerejian, a former ambassador to both Syria and Israel, at the Allenby Bridge last night. Djerejian had just come from Damascus.

Djerejian, director of the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University in Texas, had met recently with Assad and passed on his assessment of the situation to Gold.

Djerejian's office in Texas said he had been lecturing in Jordan, but did not know of any visit to Syria.

In March 1995, Djerejian accompanied former US secretary of state James Baker to Damascus and Jerusalem on a secret shuttle mission to help restart talks between the two sides.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, reiterated

in a joint interview yesterday with The Jordan Times and the London-based Al Hayat that he did not feel bound by promises made by the previous government to withdraw from the Golan Heights, though he hinted that he would be willing to negotiate their future.

The offer to withdraw from the Golan, he said, "was not an agreement, it was a hypothetical idea put forward by the Israeli side... It was never consolidated into an agreement... It was never counter-signed," Netanyahu said.

Therefore, he said, the idea "was not legally binding for the state of Israel," but added he will "take it into consideration" when negotiations resume with Syria.

Netanyahu told the newspapers he would not start negotiations with Syria from "scratch."

"We have a framework and some ideas, but it is unrealistic to expect this government, which is elected with a different mandate, to assume automatically every position, especially hypothetical positions, adopted by a previous government."

French FM won't accompany Chirac; avoids obligatory EU Orient House visit

ELDAD BECK and DAVID MAKOVSKY

FRENCH Foreign Minister Herve de Charette will not accompany French President Jacques Chirac to Israel when he arrives here Monday as part of a six-day Middle East tour, because the government has refused to allow de Charette to visit Orient House.

De Charette will be part of Chirac's entourage, however, and will accompany him to Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt.

Chirac will instead send Deputy

Health Minister Herve Gaymard to visit Orient House. According to French officials, this visit has the acquiescence of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, and was discussed with Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser Dore Gold.

Chirac's spokeswoman, Catherine Colona, said yesterday that France did not want to have a confrontation over the issue of Chirac will instead send Deputy

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Both sides say Hebron deal close

JON IMMANUEL and news agencies

PALESTINIAN officials said last night they had resolved the main issues holding up the long-delayed Hebron redeployment and an agreement could be announced within 24 hours.

"There might be some problems in the drafting, but the issues have been resolved," said one official.

"If there are no problems in the drafting, within 24 hours there will be positive results and an agreement. The only remaining issue is the drafting of the protocol, which explains the steps of implementing the Hebron redeployment," he said.

Israel Radio reported last night that Israel had given up the right of hot pursuit in PA-controlled areas in Hebron.

Israeli spokesman Moshe Fogel declined comment, except to say: "Talks on both sides, Eilat and Taba, are continuing. We are at the point where both sides are trying to identify points of mutual understanding."

Earlier, the Taba talks had stopped for supper with some progress reported on civil matters in Hebron, little progress on security matters, and a promise to discuss other issues as part of a package deal.

Israeli negotiators were talking of reaching an agreement within hours - something they have been saying for days. The Palestinians were no longer saying there was a deadlock, but warned that the fundamental issue of not making any changes to the existing agreement on Hebron had not been fully accepted by Israel.

Talks on Wednesday night continued until 3 a.m. The Palestinians introduced the idea of a package deal to include Hebron and other issues. Israel rejected the idea, but agreed to discuss everything except Hebron together, after the Hebron talks are completed.

"They are discussing only Hebron and no other matters," an Israeli source close to the negotiators confirmed.

"Some other issues will be discussed afterward, and they will be resolved as a package deal," said chief negotiator Dan Shomron.

The Palestinians have not yet fully accepted that, saying further redeployment in the West Bank, the Gaza airport, release of prisoners, and safe passages between Gaza and the West Bank are matters that should already have been resolved. However, by raising these issues together with Hebron,

the Palestinians seemed to be indicating they could reconcile themselves to some compromise on Hebron, but expected to make gains elsewhere as compensation.

They were also beginning to justify the fact that they are conducting political-level talks on Hebron, though there had been no such talks after it was agreed to redeploy from other West Bank towns.

Palestinian steering committee chief Saeb Erekat called them "self-implementing mechanisms. That's what we offered. Serious engagement in producing results on the ground will be only through a protocol implementing the agreement."

This means defining exactly what civil powers Israel will have in the 20 percent of Hebron that Israel will control (H-2) and how the rule of engagement in the case of an attack on Israelis in or from H-1, the 80% controlled by Palestinian security forces, will be implemented.

Israeli officials would not go into details on what had been achieved, as nothing had been finalized, but sources close to the talks indicated that they might make some concessions to the Palestinians on the question of municipal control of areas around the Jewish buildings. They stressed that Israel's concern is security and there is no interest in creating a formal political division between H-1 and H-2.

Most Palestinians, however, consider Israel's security demands baseless, as it has been granted control over one-fifth of the city, even though Jews make up less than one percent of the population.

The intention now is to find ways of assuring security jointly in areas where Israel does not have exclusive security authority.

The prime minister's foreign policy adviser Dore Gold returned to Jerusalem for consultations on this matter, after the Palestinians said they would not allow the IDF to enter H-1 unilaterally for any reason.

Yesterday, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat met with US Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross in Gaza. Following the meeting, Ross avoided making any statements that could be interpreted as preferring one side over the other.

"I feel both sides are honestly trying to find a solution... I am not pessimistic. I am realistic."

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Hariri: No separate peace

HILLEL KUTTNER
WASHINGTON

LEBANESE Prime Minister Rafik Hariri voiced confidence yesterday that Syria would not leave his country behind in an agreement with Israel, but conceded that a Damascus deal with Jerusalem takes precedence.

"Syria and Israel - the problems between them are much more important and much more strategic than the problem between Israel and Lebanon," Hariri said during an appearance at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Once Syria and Israel are on the verge of a deal, he said, "we are confident that... the Syrians will not sign the agreement. They will stop [at that] point and the Lebanese track will start. And when we agree, we will sign almost together."

The matter is academic for now, as Israeli-Syrian talks last week took place seven months ago and no agreement has been made on their resumption. Hariri is to meet with President Bill Clinton at the White House today. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was scheduled to host a reception for the premier last night.

Hariri rejected Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's "Lebanon First" proposal for an IDF withdrawal from southern Lebanon, calling it "an old proposal" that avoids UN Security Council resolutions demanding that Israel vacate the area.

Hariri also said it was not in Lebanon's interest to cut a separate deal with Israel because that would work only to Israel's benefit. "We want to live in peace with Israel," Hariri said. "And we are ready to work very hard to achieve this goal. But we cannot do it alone."

He maintained that Lebanon enjoys "very friendly relations" with Syria, which he said has helped "to restore the security" to Lebanon.

Syria to finance projects in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Syria will build a sports complex on the site of a former Israeli detention camp in southern Lebanon, Lebanese officials yesterday quoted President Hafez Assad as saying.

Officials close to outgoing parliament speaker Nabih Berri said Assad told him on Wednesday in Damascus that Syria would donate \$10 million for the complex in the village of Ansar and other projects.

Israel held thousands of Lebanese and Arab prisoners at Ansar camp until 1985, when it pulled out the bulk of its forces from Lebanon and set up the security zone.

Other projects Syria would fund included a museum and a commemorative stone in Kafr Kana, where Israeli shelling killed 103 civilians taking refuge at a UN base in April, the officials said.

Syria would also build a cultural center in Tyre, another in southeastern Lebanon, and an orphanage in the coastal village of Sarafand, the officials said.

Hariri also denied assertions by representatives of human rights groups at the forum that Syrian soldiers had abducted Lebanese civilians. He said Syrian President Hafez Assad would not "agree" to such behavior taking place.

Syrian Ambassador Walid Muallem was among the Washington-based envoys who attended Hariri's address.



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, US envoy Dennis Ross and UN coordinator Terje Larsen answer questions after their meeting in Arafat's office in Gaza City yesterday. (AP)

Arab councils strike to protest financial plight

DAVID RUDGE

MUNICIPAL services in the 53 Arab local councils were shut down yesterday to protest their financial plight.

Council leaders said the 24-hour strike was only the opening shot in their campaign to press the government to honor its commitments to bail them out.

The strike was called by the forum of Arab Council Heads, after repeated requests for government assistance for the authorities, which have accumulated deficits of NIS 350 million, failed to produce results.

The council leaders are also

angry about a Housing Ministry proposal to expand the Jewish population of the Galilee because of forecasts that Arabs will outnumber Jews there within 20 years.

"We hope that any development will not be at the expense of our land and development," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum.

"The issue of the Housing Ministry report is important, but even more pressing at the moment is the question of the plight of the municipalities," he said. "Many

councils are bankrupt and cannot provide municipal services. Many have been unable to pay the salaries of employees for several months.

"The strike, which was supported by all the councils, is only a warning, and the forum will meet again next week to decide on further action, unless there is a meeting beforehand with the prime minister," he added.

The council heads have called for an urgent meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Interior Minister Eli Shalev, so far without receiving a reply.

After Hebron pullback, Netanyahu may face political fallout

ANALYSIS
DAVID MAKOVSKY

ASSUMING Israelis and Palestinians find a way to resolve their differences on Hebron redeployment, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will be left to grapple with the domestic political fallout of the deal.

Will he be able to hold his coalition together, or will he have no choice but to turn to a unity government with Labor?

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan has threatened to pull Tsomet out of the government if redeployment takes place, and other ministers are also known to oppose it.

Moreover, the settlers are threatening to take to the streets against Netanyahu if he accepts a Hebron deal. Hebron settlers are convinced that there will be bloodshed after redeployment, and even Netanyahu is said to believe this cannot be ruled out.

Furthermore, coalition supporters may be increasingly unhappy to hear that any Hebron deal could be accompanied by a Palestinian insistence on implementing other parts of the Oslo accords, such as release of prisoners and a reaffirmation by Netanyahu there will be further redeployments.

The rift between Netanyahu and the Right is likely to grow, unless immediate compensatory steps on settlement expansion follow redeployment. But Netanyahu has little room to maneuver, since any move significant enough to please the settlers is bound to anger the Palestinians.

The question for Netanyahu's ideological right-wing allies is whether alienation must lead to a

break. If they feel weak, they may decide they have no political option but to stay inside the government. According to some on the right, however, bad Netanyahu's surrender to Oslo might be, it is preferable to having Labor back in the government.

Should Netanyahu, however, reach the conclusion that he has no alternative but a national unity government, sources suggest the change will not come while he is at his current nadir. He does not want it said that he needs Labor to bail him out and continue the peace process.

Rather, he would favor gaining as much momentum as possible from a Hebron deal, to improve his standing at home and abroad. Specifically, he would attend next month's Cairo economic summit, and perhaps follow it up with a tour of some Gulf states as a sign of international acceptance. This could be capped with a warm White House meeting during his scheduled trip to the US next month, which would stand in stark contrast to the chill that prevailed during the White House summit earlier this month.

Only then will Netanyahu feel his honor has been preserved, and he could enter a unity government from a position of strength and march with Labor to deal with all the difficulties of Oslo.

Some close to Netanyahu say he would prefer to work with Shimon Peres, thus diminishing the image of potential election opponent Ehud Barak as a knight in shining armor.

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Hebron, Kiryat Arba women refuse to meet with Knesset committee

LIAT COLLINS

JEWISH women from Hebron and Kiryat Arba have turned down a request by the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women to tour the area and meet with them. The committee is chaired by MK Yael Dayan (Labor), who said yesterday that to the best of her knowledge this is the first time such a request by a Knesset committee has been rejected.

The heads of seven women's groups in Hebron and Kiryat Arba sent Dayan a letter thanking the committee for its interest in examining the problems close up, but saying they were "too busy and concerned with efforts to protect our lives and the lives of our children due to the threat that it will be decided to carry out the Peace-Arafat agreement to withdraw from Hebron, which is likely to cause a disaster."

The women said matters concerning the status of women are of secondary importance under these circumstances. The committee was scheduled to visit the area on Tuesday to meet with both Palestinian and Jewish residents.

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האזנה מן הלאה

Clinton to consider Arafat's request for US troops in Hebron

US President Bill Clinton stated Wednesday night that he would consider Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's suggestion that American troops participate in an international force to monitor a Hebron agreement.

But he asserted he would have to hear the precise proposal from both sides, and in any case didn't favor the notion.

The comments came in response to one of the few foreign policy-related questions at Wednesday's presidential debate in San Diego, California.

Defense Secretary William Perry had said prior to hosting Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai on Tuesday that the proposal was

not being actively considered by the administration.

Challenger Robert Dole said in the debate that he had not heard about Arafat's request, but that "the last thing we want to do is commit more forces anywhere."

Asked about the matter, Clinton responded, "I do not believe Yasser Arafat wants us to send troops to the West Bank. We have never been asked to send troops to the West Bank."

Clinton said the Oslo accords contain "thousands of delineations" for Israeli and

Palestinian authority in the West Bank and that it could be carried out by them "in a good faith manner."

"We cannot impose a peace on the Middle East. My position has always been that the job of the US was to minimize the risks of peace."

"You know, if they ask me to be a part of some monitoring force, as we are in the Sinai — frankly, I would have to think about it. I would have to see what they wanted to do. But I don't believe that will be the request. I think what Mr. Arafat wants us to do is to make sure that everybody honors the agreements they've already made."

More on debate, Page 6

6 Palestinians arrested for holding weapons, stolen IDF uniforms

POLICE and the army arrested six Palestinians who had allegedly accumulated a cache of rifles, bullets, knives and stolen IDF uniforms, as well as inflammatory printed material. The arrests were made early yesterday after a joint force of policemen and soldiers found the cache during a search in the village of Azura, near Tulkarm.

Weapons were also found in other homes in the village.

The security forces have been on alert after intelligence warnings that Islamic groups were planning terrorist attacks. Three of the bombers who carried out the suicide bombings in February and March had dressed up as soldiers.

The Judea and Samaria police have also arrested eight people, two of them youths, who allegedly threw stones and firebombs at cars on the road leading to the settlement

of Kedumim. The two youths were arrested three weeks ago. When an older brother of one of them came to try to free him, the brother was also arrested, based on evidence given by the younger brother.

The three suspects then implicated five others, who were arrested last week. A search of the suspects' homes turned up materials for making firebombs and a home-made bomb. (Tim)

PM promises Jewish leaders 'interesting times' ahead

PERHAPS because they call themselves Lions of Judah, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu approached them diffidently.

"Maybe some of you will decide to stay," he suggested yesterday to the 500 female leaders and fund-raisers from Jewish communities around the world, who were in Jerusalem this week for their first international conference.

Members of the United Jewish Appeal and Keren Hayesod are usually exhorted to increase their donations and fund-raising efforts in support of absorption efforts here and Jewish communities in the Diaspora. But, in keeping with the conference's theme of "Beyond Boundaries," Netanyahu broached the touchy subject of aliya.

"I offer you the certain knowledge that you will live in interesting times," he said.

The bulk of his address dealt with what he termed the recent "interesting time" here, the violence that erupted following the opening of an exit from the Hasmonean Tunnel. These events were a violation of the concept of reciprocity, which together with security is the cornerstone of peace, he said.

Netanyahu stressed the speed with which his government had moved, pointing out that he and Foreign Minister David Levy had met with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, had set up steering committees and had arranged subsequent meetings "all in 65 days." No one would have believed a Likud government could move so quickly to do so, he said.

As for the future, he said, "I am confident that we can progress on the road to peace with our Palestinian partners and we can broaden the circle of peace."

1956 document reveals collusion of Britain and France with Israel on Suez attack

A SECRET document which proves that Britain and France actively colluded in Israel's 1956 attack on the Suez Canal has been found in Israel and will form the centerpiece of a BBC-TV program on Tuesday to mark the 40th anniversary of the Suez crisis.

The document, known as the Sevres Protocol, was signed by prime minister David Ben-Gurion, British assistant under-secretary at the Foreign Office Patrick Dean, and French foreign minister Christian Pineau.

The three countries agreed Israel would attack Egyptian positions near the Suez Canal on October 29, at which point Britain and France would call on Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser to allow Anglo-French forces to enter the area and ensure the free passage of ships.

It is believed that Israel's copy of the protocol, hastily typed in French over three pages, is the only surviving copy.

According to Sir Donald Logan, who attended the ceremony as the private secretary of British foreign secretary Selwyn Lloyd, "Champagne was produced, but there was little sparkle in the atmosphere and Patrick [Dean] and I soon took our leave."

The following day, he says, prime minister Anthony Eden sent him and Dean back to Paris to ask the French to destroy their copy of the document.

"At the Quai d'Orsay [French Foreign Ministry], we presented the prime minister's request to Pineau, who received it rather coldly and questioned the need and advisability of such action," Logan says. "He pointed out that

year, Eden had declared emphatically, "There was not foreknowledge that Israel would attack Egypt. There was not."

These were the last words Eden spoke in parliament before resigning due to poor health. He died shortly afterward.

Logan was quoted in *The Times*, which made the document public yesterday, as saying that he believes the Israeli government was anxious to keep the existence of the protocol secret, at least during Eden's lifetime.

According to the newspaper, the Israeli copy was released to the BBC "after intense negotiations with the Israeli, French, and British governments."

the Israelis had returned to Israel with their copy the previous evening."

The document, which was discovered by a BBC research team at the Ben-Gurion Archive at Sde Boker, provides proof that Eden lied when he told the House of Commons that he had no prior knowledge of the Israeli attack, which provided the pretext for the Anglo-French invasion in late October and early November of 1956.

In answer to a parliamentary question on December 20 that

Petition claims army's occupation of home is illegal

FOUR Arab residents of eastern Jerusalem petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday, charging that the army has illegally occupied their house.

Each of the four owns an apartment in a building on the city's northern border, near the Ramallah checkpoint. Only one of the apartments is currently inhabited, however; the other three families have not yet moved in.

According to the petition, the army took over the house to use as a lookout point shortly after Palestinian rioters attacked the Ramallah checkpoint on September 25. At the time, the one family who lives there was away; when they returned, they were not

allowed to enter the house. All of their possessions are still there, the petition said.

The house is very close to the border between Israel and the administered territories.

The petitioners say they believe it is on the Israeli side of the border, in which case, they charged, the seizure of their house would have no legal basis.

Even if the house is on the other side of the border, however, the army's use of the house would be illegal, because it never issued a seizure order, the petition said.

Finally, the petition argued, the

army's continued occupation of the house would be illegal even if the original seizure had been legal, since there is no longer any justification for it. The violence has abated, and most of the restrictions imposed by the army during the rioting have been eased, it said.

Furthermore, it added, there are vacant lots near the house which would make equally effective lookout points, as they also provide a clear view of the Jerusalem-Ramallah highway.

Therefore, the infringement of the owners' rights is much greater than necessary for any legitimate military need, which means it violates the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom, the petition said.

The Jerusalem Post
Hebron, Kiryat Arba women refuse to meet with Knesset committee
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Did you really think a fair compromise on Bar-Ilan was around the corner?

THE Zameret Committee was set up after massive haredi riots on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan. Its mandate: to find a way out of the impasse over the haredi demand that the street be closed to vehicular traffic on Shabbat. The committee is to submit its recommendations within the next week or so.

To judge by the latest leaks from the committee, a very real danger exists that not only will it choose to skirt the issue and pass the buck to other agencies and committees, but that in so doing, it will exacerbate the already-escalating conflict between a militant haredi minority and a hitherto quiescent non-observant majority.

Whether a major traffic artery should be closed to traffic on Shabbat is an important issue in itself. But Rehov Bar-Ilan has become more than that. For some time it has been both a symbol and a test case.

For the haredim, success in forcing the street's closure is seen as a test of their ability to translate their impressive political gains in the 1993 municipal elections in Jerusalem and in this year's national elections into concrete achievements.

For the non-observant it is seen as a test of the degree of haredi intolerance of the values and interests of other communities and individuals as the haredim begin to have the political power to make a choice between intolerance and tolerance.

In an even larger sense, the way in which the Bar-Ilan issue is decided will be an indicator of whether deteriorating relations between haredim and non-observant will become even worse; or whether the decision will mark a turning point in which representatives of the different sides show that they are capable of arriving at possibly painful but mutually accommodating compromises.

News from the committee speaks of an intention to pass the buck on closing Bar-Ilan and other streets to local authorities and town planning commissions, and to delineate criteria for when such major arteries passing through haredi neighbor-

YOSEF GOELL

hoods can be closed. There was earlier talk of finding a compromise by means of which the haredi demands for the closure of Bar-Ilan would be accommodated in return for permitting public bus and taxi transportation in non-religious neighborhoods on Shabbat; but this kind of compromise seems to have been abandoned.

It looks as if the committee weighing the closure of the street will be passing the buck, making a bad situation worse

recommendations not based on an honest compromise seeking a balance between opposing interests will simply deepen the conflict between the two sides.

IN THE COURSE of the committee's deliberations, it emerged that the recommendations of the previous Sturm Committee, which called for closing Bar-Ilan during Shabbat prayer hours, were based on erroneous - and possibly intentionally misleading - information from the Jerusalem Municipality.

The first figures claimed that an average of "only" 3,500 vehicles are driven through Bar-Ilan on Shabbat, 700 of them during prayer hours.

The Zameret Committee was subsequently told by shamed-faced municipality sources that the true figures are 13,000 and 5,500 respectively.

There is no doubt that normal vehicular traffic on Shabbat is a painful thing for the haredi residents along the street; but the real figures indicate that any closure of Bar-Ilan on Shabbat would also constitute a painful inconvenience to very many non-observant resi-

dents of Jerusalem's northern neighborhoods.

An honest and courageous compromise means attempting to weigh pain against pain and inconvenience against inconvenience. Anything short of an optimal attempt to ally and balance the pain and inconvenience of both sides would be a cop-out that would have very serious repercussions.

In the short run, any decision to close Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat without palpable evidence of major haredi concessions to non-observant Jerusalemites on rescinding restrictions on public transport and on Shabbat entertainment would aggravate the current trend in which the most productive elements among the city's non-observant population are abandoning it.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Mayor Ehud Olmert should be fully aware of the catastrophic implications of such an abandonment during the very period in which the political future of Jerusalem is to be decided.

An atmosphere in which a growing number of non-observant Jerusalemites may feel constrained to move out of the city as a result of haredi intolerance can only persuade a growing number of Israelis that half of a Jerusalem that is no longer "their city" can be ceded to the Palestinians without much regret.

One-sided recommendations on the closure of Rehov Bar-Ilan will also serve as a signal to the country's non-observant majority that it is hopeless to strive for mutually beneficial accommodations with a militant haredi world, whose rabbinical and political leaders are "the enemy."

Such a conclusion would make resolution of the Bar-Ilan issue in their favor something of a Pyrrhic victory for the haredim, whose minority status and religious lifestyle renders them highly vulnerable to retaliation from a threatened majority who have come to see them as an adversary.

The writer comments on public affairs.



In the Swiss bank saga, just do the equations...

EMANUEL KLEIN

THERE is some unclaimed gold in the Swiss banks. It's worth a couple of billion dollars. Some of it is mine by right.

The problem has always been to identify how much belongs to me and what belongs to someone else.

I know that my entitlement was collected some time between 1944 and May 1945. By the Germans. Most of it was sent to a central collection agency and still bears the mark of the Reich's Central Bank.

Being an honest man, I am the first to admit that I have no accurate records of the time or place where the deposits were made. The only option left, therefore, is to try to quantify (or qualify?) my claim.

As precisely as possible, I was told that members of my family were very particular about their teeth. They had them fixed regularly. And they had lots of rings. And chains. And gold coins. And gold-rimmed glasses. And gold watches. And gold bars. Just in case they needed them in an emergency.

Of course they couldn't take all that stuff with them when they traveled abroad to the small Polish town of Oswiecim. But the German soldiers told them to just leave everything, and they would take care of what couldn't be carried.

The neighbors were helpful, too, with the goods. Without proper invoices and

receipts, it isn't easy to prepare a claim. But here I am doing it. On behalf of my family, who were otherwise disposed (of) about 50 years ago.

To be fair, the Swiss have always said we could have the gold if we could prove ownership.

Well, after due consideration, I

entitled to toothwise from my immediate family - without counting my more distant relatives, who no doubt would be much happier for me to have it rather than the Swiss bankers.

Now let's turn to the chains and rings.

My relatives suspected, of course, that they might be going

...and you'll come up with proof even a Swiss banker can understand

think I have hit upon the formula for proof.

HAVING no dentist friends - who does? - I don't know precisely how much gold goes into a filling. Or how much you need for a gold tooth. But there must be experts familiar with such details.

The dental equation would look like this: ((4GP + 9 B&S-F + 11 B&S-M) X 2) x Au.g = X

on a rather lengthy trip. That being the case, they wanted to look good, and there was the "you never know when you might need it" factor referred to earlier.

Therefore, it is quite reasonable to assume: 2 rings, 2 chains, 1 watch, 10 gold coins, 1/4 pair gold-rimmed glasses (let's suppose they weren't so fashionable in those days) per person, and 4 gold bars (two per family).

Our trinkets equation therefore should be: ((2R + 2C + 1W + 10GC + 1/4 G) x 2) + 4GB x Au.g = Y

would suffice. Once we know the gold content of the various items we should get a very good idea of what I am entitled to under X and Y.

Now the only other thing left to calculate is the quantity of gold my family left behind.

Paintings, rugs, silver, antiques and other objects? Let's leave them out of the picture. Talking about them would just muddy the waters. So let's not get confused. Let's just concentrate on gold.

Our third formula, which computes my claim, should therefore look as follows:

(((SA - (X + Y) x 3) + [(SA - (X + Y) x 5) + [BC - (X + Y) x 2]] x Au.g = Z

Here SA stands for Stashed Away (with gentle neighbors, at least three times (X+Y). SS stands for Safekeeping by Soldiers (at least five times (X+Y). BC stands for Bribery and Corruption (handed over in exchange for water, bread and miscellaneous donations to German soldiers, at least twice (X+Y).

So that's it. Quite simple really. What's really unfortunate is that none of the 24 members of my family can make it to Switzerland this year to lay their claim.

And if the Swiss bankers hold out for another 10 or 15 years, I won't make it either.

The writer is a businessman who lives in Sydney. (The Australian)

Nachshon's legacy

ESTHER WACHSMAN

NEXT week will mark two years since the kidnapping and murder of our son Nachshon.

At a memorial ceremony in the Yeshurun Synagogue in Jerusalem at 5 p.m. on Tuesday we will be announcing the opening of a Center for Understanding and Tolerance, to be called Morshet Nachshon.

I found myself torn between making Nachshon's *yahrzeit* privately within our circle of family and friends, and holding a mass memorial service in the presence of otobles and all the people of Israel. A lot of thoughts went around in my head.

Finally, I couldn't help remembering those agonizing days in October, 1994, when all of our fellow Jews, both in Israel and in the Diaspora, actively shared our pain.

All the country prayed with us, hoped with us, and later cried and mourned with us in our tragedy. Left-wingers and right-wingers, religious and secular Jews, old and young, rich and poor, Sephardi and Ashkenazi - all were concerned with the fate of one Jewish soul.

Many people may still remember how during that fateful week Israel Radio began each morning's broadcast with the words "Good morning, Israel, we are all the Wachsmans family."

That unprecedented unity and

family celebrations are a constant source of grief and emptiness, a void that can never be filled.

That is our private grief. But it is fitting that we should embrace all our countrymen, who were as one together with us, and invite them to share in commemorating the end of Nachshon's 19 years of life.

Love of our people was the legacy Nachshon left behind. We have made it our mission to continue to fulfill that legacy through a center that will further tolerance and understanding in Nachshon's memory.

Solidarity doesn't mean having identical viewpoints or ideals. Unity doesn't mean all of us sharing the same opinions or goals. Unity and solidarity, as we experienced it during that week in 1994, means a common commitment to the Jewish people, a Jew's love and understanding for his fellow Jew, and discussion and disagreement marked by respect, tolerance and civilized rhetoric.

It is our hope that Nachshon, whom we believe sits beside the heavenly throne, will serve as a messenger, fostering "love, brotherhood, peace and friendship" among our people.

The writer's son Nachshon was kidnapped and killed by Hamas terrorists in October 1994.

He left us tolerance and understanding and love for our people

Ezra youth group, but disdained praise and struggled off accolades. It is thus somehow fitting that this boy should become the symbol of unconditional love of one Jew for his fellow.

For Nachshon's family and friends, a day marking the anniversary of his death is redundant. Not a day goes by when Nachshon is not in our hearts and memories. His pictures on the wall, his empty chair at the Shabbat table, his absence during holidays and at

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At least 78 dead, 127 injured in Guatemala stadium tragedy

SERGIO CARRASCO
GUATEMALA CITY

Soccer fans stampeded before a World Cup qualifying match, crushing and smothering one another in one of the worst sports tragedies in years. Officials said yesterday that at least 78 people — some of them children — were killed and 127 were hurt.

President Alvaro Arzu, who witnessed Wednesday night's mayhem from a box seat at the Mateo Flores National Stadium, called off Guatemala's match with Costa Rica and declared three days of national mourning.

"It's terrible! It's terrible!" said Marlon Ivan Leon, a defender for the Guatemalan national team, who sobbed as he stood by a long row of bodies lined up inside the stadium.

"What does soccer matter now?" said Guatemala's head coach, Horacio Cordero.

The fire department said yesterday that 78 people died and 127 were injured, revising earlier reports of 83 dead and 180 injured. Hospitals said that most of the injured had been released after treatment for asphyxia or broken bones.

As dawn broke, stadium workers were clearing away shoes, documents, torn clothing and bloodstains from the site of the disaster. The director of the Guatemala City morgue, Mario Guerra, said officials had begun turning over bodies of victims to relatives.

Most of the bodies laid out under the glare of stadium lights were those of young men and women and children, some wearing T-shirts hoisting the Guatemalan team. Firefighters crossed the stiffening arms of the dead neatly over their chests, and covered those whose clothes had been torn from them with blankets and their own uniform jackets.

Fans had filled the 45,000-seat stadium far past capacity for the qualifying match for the 1998

World Cup tournament. An hour before the game, fans dressed in Guatemala's national colors of blue and white were even perched on the press box and stadium walls, all but blocking the gates.

There were conflicting accounts on what then set off the stampede. Initially, firefighters attributed it to desperate fans trying to claw their way through a concrete passageway into the sold-out stadium.

The world soccer association FIFA, however, said forgers apparently had sold fake tickets to the match, bringing far more people to the stadium than could fit.

Fans outside kicked down an entrance door in the south stands, sending other spectators tumbling to stands below. As the stampede began, guards opened security gates onto the field to try to ease the crush, FIFA said.

However, Government spokesman Oscar Mias said the rush began when fans tried to flee from a drunken brawl that broke out in the general seating bleachers.

"People crowded each other, trying to pull away from the fight. Many lost their balance and fell on top of each other," Mias said.

Most of those killed apparently had died by suffocation, said Victor Hugo Perez, the nation's top prosecutor. Perez refused to comment on the cause of the disaster, saying the investigation was just beginning.

It was only the latest deadly stampede at a crowded soccer stadium. In April 1989 in Sheffield, England, 95 people were crushed to death along riot fences that surrounded the field at Hillsborough Stadium.

On March 12, 1988, 93 people were killed and more than 100 injured in Katmandu, Nepal, when fans fleeing a hailstorm stampeded into locked stadium exits. (AP)



Bodies of people trampled to death lay in Guatemala's national stadium on Wednesday. More than 80 people were reported killed when fans without tickets tried to barge into the stadium to see the Guatemala vs. Costa Rica World Cup qualifying match. (Reuters)

Uzbek forces join battlefront, raise Afghan stakes

KURT SCHORK
CHARIKAR, Afghanistan

THE forces of powerful Uzbek chief Abdul Rashid Dostum rolled onto the front line of Afghanistan's latest battle for power yesterday, dramatically escalating a war between the Taliban militia and the government it ousted.

But even as a dozen Uzbek tanks and hundreds of men poured out of the Salang Pass through the Hindu Kush mountains, Dostum and the purist Islamic Taliban were still talking peace.

Afghan-watchers regard Dostum as heading perhaps the most powerful single fighting force in Afghanistan that could influence the fate of Kabul, seized three weeks ago by Taliban Islamic fighters who control two-thirds of the country.

The Taliban on Wednesday rejected an ultimatum from the ousted government's military chief to quit Kabul or face bloodshed, saying there were enough Taliban to defend the city which they have imposed Islam's stern Sharia law.

But they might not be able to hold it against both Dostum and the forces of ex-defense minister Ahmad Shah Massoud, whose spokesman billed Dostum's deployment as a victory.

Peace calls came from India and Iran and the world's largest Moslem organization, the Organization of the Islamic

Conference (OIC), grouping more than 50 Moslem countries. Japan offered to host any peace talks.

Pakistan said President Farooq Leghari, keen to ally Central Asian power yesterday, dramatically escalating a war between the Taliban militia, will fly to the Uzbek capital Tashkent on Friday.

Acting Information Minister Amir Khan Mutaqi told Reuters in Kabul the Taliban were satisfied with Pakistani-brokered talks in Dostum's northern stronghold on Wednesday and that the Uzbek leader has assured them he would not join the battle.

"Deployment and talks are not necessarily inconsistent. Dostum is clearly making himself the key to a deal and his deployment just strengthens the pressure on the Taliban," said one veteran Afghan watcher in Kabul.

Nevertheless, fears mounted in Kabul of yet another battle for a city that bears the massive scars of factional power struggles in the past four years after escaping largely unscathed Afghanistan's previous 13 years of war.

Masood said he left Kabul without a battle on September 27 as the Taliban descended on it to spare the city another bloodbath. Now he has told the Taliban to quit or face a fight.

The Taliban authorities waved off the threat, saying they had enough fighters to defend the capital. (Reuters)

Clinton lead looks awesome, but Dole full of fight

SAN DIEGO (Reuters) — President Bill Clinton and Republican Bob Dole, charged into the home-stretch of the November 5 election campaign yesterday with Clinton looking unbeatable but Dole still full of fight.

As if to show himself undaunted after a final campaign debate in which he clearly failed to land any knockout blow, Dole remained in California to woo voters in a political treasure-trove state where Clinton holds a wide lead.

While many analysts say the 73-year-old Republican is wasting valuable campaign funds by fighting on in places like this, Dole running mate Jack Kemp insisted such pessimism is unwarranted and a historic comeback is in the making.

"That is extremely doable," Kemp said in an ABC Television interview when asked whether the Republican ticket could overcome Clinton leads ranging from high single-digits to near 20 percent with less than three weeks left to

Election Day. Buoyed by his debate performance, Clinton went for a jog on the beach yesterday morning and was making more campaign stops in California later in the day.

Yesterday's daily Reuters tracking poll, which traces trends over a three-day average sample among about 900 likely voters, showed Dole moving up slightly to about 12 points behind Clinton in a sampling that did not reflect Wednesday evening debate performances.

Clinton led Dole in the Reuters/Zogby poll by 45 percent to 33.1 percent with 6.3 percent favoring Reform Party nominee Ross Perot. Dole trailed by about 13 percent on Wednesday.

"These new figures essentially show Clinton dropping, but Dole staying fixed in the low to mid-30s as he has been throughout our tracking," said pollster John Zogby. While other surveys give Clinton slightly bigger or smaller leads, no presidential candidate in modern

US history has overcome any such gaps so late in a campaign.

In the celebrated Harry Truman upset of front-runner Thomas Dewey in the 1948 White House race — a breathtaking comeback often cited by Dole partisans — Truman only trailed Dewey by about five percentage points in mid-October.

Some Republicans in fact have given up the ghost on Dole and fret about a Clinton rout so vast it might sweep his Democrats back into control of Congress — which they lost just two years ago — as well.

An ABC News Poll of 567 registered voters said 55 percent thought Clinton won, 28 percent thought Dole did and 14 percent called it even. As to whether the clash had changed any minds, the pollster said: "What little movement occurred brought Clinton from a 13-point lead among viewers before the debate to a 16-point lead among the same people afterward."

German Jewish community denounces Scientology ads

FRANKFURT (AP) — Germany's top Jewish leader said he was insulted by a Church of Scientology advertisement in the New York Times yesterday that compares Germany's treatment of Scientologists today to Nazi persecution of the Jews.

Ignatz Bubis, chairman of Germany's Central Council of Jews and a prominent member of the centrist Free Democratic Party, said he denounced the ad's "comparison because it is false."

The advertisement features an imperial eagle and a swastika and likens current treatment of Scientologists in Germany to Nazi persecution of the Jews. "You may wonder why German officials discriminate against Scientologists," the advertisement said. "There is no legitimate reason but then there was none that justified the persecution of the Jewish people either."

Bubis said the ad was "an insult to German politicians and especially disparages remembrance of the suffering of the Nazis' victims."

A spokesman at the church's Los Angeles headquarters, the Rev. Heber Jentsch, defended the ad, which he said would run in other newspapers in coming weeks.

Referring to the treatment of Scientologists members in Germany, Jentsch said: "We're not saying it's a Holocaust. But the elements are there."

Members of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government have accused Scientologists of being a danger to German society. Some ministers want its members banned from government jobs and put under surveillance.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ebola death toll rises to 11 in Gabon
BRAZZAVILLE, Congo (AP) — The death toll from an outbreak of the Ebola virus in Gabon has risen to 11, the World Health Organization said yesterday. The outbreak in the northeastern Bouc region is the second in the West African country this year. Twenty-one people died of Ebola in February. The outbreak is the fourth to strike the African continent since 1995. In spring 1995 it infected 316 people in Zaire and killed 245. A single case of Ebola was confirmed in the Ivory Coast in December last year.

Iraqi Kurd threatens to enlist Baghdad's aid
SALAHUDDIN, Iraq (Reuters) — Kurdish chieftain Massoud Barzani threatened to ask the Iraqi government for further help in his feud with a rival militia. Barzani's rivals, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), have closed in this week on the city of Arbil, which Barzani's men captured with the backing of Iraqi tanks and troops in late August.

Hitler painting sells for \$3,750 in Britain
LONDON (Reuters) — A watercolor believed to have been painted by Adolf Hitler and found by a soldier in a bomb-damaged Hamburg apartment in 1945 was sold for £2,500 (\$3,750) on Wednesday. The picture was found recently under a bed in a suitcase, along with Third Reich memorabilia, in the eastern English county of Lincolnshire where it was sold. The painting of a square in Vienna, dated 1911, is signed "A. Hitler" and coincides with a period when he was trying to make a living as an artist in his native Austria.

Beatles say 'No' to reunion, further singles
LONDON (Reuters) — The three surviving Beatles have ruled out a reunion and decided not to release any more singles. The decision was announced after the release of *Anthology III*, the third album of rare archive material covering the career of the world's most famous pop group.

To mark the first two anthologies, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr released two new songs remixed with the voice and backing of John Lennon, who was murdered outside his New York apartment in 1980.

The first two anthology albums have sold 12 million copies. The three surviving Beatles veiled moves to release a soulful version of their song "Helter Skelter" as a single. Former Beatles press officer Derek Taylor told reporters at the album launch this week: "There is no more. The Beatles needed what the Americans call closure, and this is it. There will certainly never be a Beatles reunion on stage, that is for sure."

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our mother and grandmother

LIBBY WIND LANDE
née Lillian Edith Silber
Jerusalem, Israel.

The funeral will take place on Friday, October 18, 1996 (5 Heshvan 5757), at 10 a.m. at the Shamgar Funeral Home in Jerusalem. Burial on Har Hamenuhot.

A bus will go from Shamgar to the cemetery.

Rabbi Israel Wind and Family, New York
Rochelle Wiesen and Family, New York

Shiva in Israel until Sunday, 6:30 p.m., at the home of the deceased, 6 Lev Ha'ivri (off Hovevei Zion), Jerusalem. (Tel. 02-586-1782).

AMIT WOMEN

mourns the loss of our long-time devoted member

LIBBY WIND LANDE
and extends sincere condolences to her family.

Evelyn Blachor National President, Amit Women
Shoshannah Rick Chairwoman, Israel Executive
Dr. Ami Zeevi Director General

We sadly announce the passing of our mother, grandmother and babicka

ERNA ROTH

The funeral will take place on Sunday, October 20, at 12 noon, at the Yarkon cemetery, Tel Aviv

Fred and Dora Roth, San Francisco
Family Delmi, Tel Aviv
Family Knopf, Scottsdale, Arizona

The unveiling of the tombstone of the late

KARIN MISSULAWIN קרין

will take place on Sunday, October 20, at 4 p.m. at the new Ra'anana Cemetery.

The Family

On the first yahrzeit since the reinterment in Israel of

ESTHER LEAH SHECKMAN

We wish to announce the unveiling of a monument at Shikun Vatikim Cemetery, Netanya, on Sunday, October 20, 1996. We will meet at the gate at 11:15 a.m.

Dorothy and Gus Stone
Marilyn and Dicky Refson

The consecration of the tombstone of our very dear

Dr. RUSSELL KENNETH EDWARDS ריי

will take place on Sunday, October 20, 1996, at 3:30 p.m., at Har Hamenuhot Cemetery, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem. We shall meet at the main entrance at 3:15 p.m.

The Family

BEIT MORASHA OF JERUSALEM
Center for Advanced Jewish Studies

בית מורשה בירושלים
מרכז ללימודים גבוהים ביהדות

MORESHET NACHSHON
THE NACHSHON WACHSMAN HERITAGE CENTER FOR TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING

On the 2nd anniversary of the tragic murder of Nachshon Wachsman z'l at the hands of terrorists, a Memorial Service will take place on **Tuesday 22.10.96 at 5 p.m.** at **Beit Morasha Jerusalem** Center for Advanced Jewish Studies, (Yeshurun Synagogue), 44 King George Street, Jerusalem

in the presence of Government Ministers, the Chief Rabbis, dignitaries and family members. The establishment of Nachshon Wachsman Heritage Center for Tolerance and Understanding will be announced on this occasion.

SPEECHES
Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Chief Rabbi of Israel
Rabbi El'yahu Bakshi Doron, Chief Rabbi of Israel
Mr. Zevulun Hammer, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Education & Culture
Dr. Ephraim Sneh, M.K.
Professor Benjamin Ish-Shalom, Rector, Beit Morasha of Jerusalem
Rabbi Mordechai Elon - Head of Yeshivat Horev
Mr. Yehuda Wachsman
Mrs. Esther Wachsman

The gathering at the graveside will take place at the Military Cemetery, Mt. Herzl, Jerusalem, on Wednesday, 23.10.96 at 4 p.m.

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האדם מן האל

NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, October 18, 1996

Past, and present, ties with our neighbors



While King Hussein and Yitzhak Rabin struck up a close friendship in both public and private circles, Yasser Arafat and Binyamin Netanyahu have not seen eye-to-eye on many occasions. (Brian Hender, AP)

Arabs are cutting off relations with Israel

FOR several months, Ahmed Tala'at has been a lone wolf in the Egyptian press. His message: Give Prime Minister Netanyahu a chance.

These days, Tala'at, a lawyer and analyst with the Ibn Khaldoun Center in Cairo, has stopped defending the Israeli prime minister. "In only three months, Netanyahu has caused a [level of] opposition from the Arab world as well as the rest of the international community that is unprecedented," he says. "This is a critical situation."

It's a far cry from Netanyahu's visit to Cairo on July 18, where both Egyptian and Israeli government aides say the prime minister convinced President Hosni Mubarak that he would take significant steps to implement the interim agreements with the Palestinians and resume peace talks with the Syrians.

Within weeks of the visit, however, Mubarak complained that he had been tricked by Netanyahu, and relations with Egypt and the entire Arab world have since plummeted.

Today, Arab analysts agree with their counterparts in Jerusalem that the attacks on Netanyahu are nearing hysteria. Morocco's King Hassan has ordered his government to freeze relations with Israel. He was followed by Tunisia and Qatar.

Arab media attacks on Netanyahu have intensified. Syria and Egyptian newspapers are warning the prime minister of war. The semi-official Egyptian *Al-Ahram* daily quoted Defense Minister Mohamed Hussein Tantawi as warning Egyptian youth against Israeli attempts to recruit them as spies. The imam of the Mohammed mosque in the Saudi city of Medina called on Moslems to stop Israel from what he called plans to destroy Al-Aksa Mosque and build a Jewish temple.

Arab regimes have even loosened their ban on street demonstrations. In Cairo, authorities have allowed anti-Israel marches after Friday mosque prayers, something they prevented in the past.

Tala'at says that privately Arab leaders acknowledge that Netanyahu is proceeding with the peace process. What gets their goat, he says, and drives their constituents wild is the strident style of the prime minister.

"He talks too much," Tala'at, one of the few Egyptian intellectuals who has visited Israel, says. "His declarations make the blood of the people boil. Then, the journalists pick up on this even though most of them don't know what's going on."

Another problem, Tala'at says, is that Netanyahu doesn't seem to want to inspire Arab confidence, particularly over his approach to the Palestinians. "If Israel can't be committed to the Palestinians, then what worth will be his commitments to the rest of the Arab world?" he asks.

Even Jordan has been swept up in the hostile attitude toward Israel. "If there isn't peace in the region, Prime Minister Netanyahu will have to carry a gas mask like in the Gulf war," King

Arab attacks on Binyamin Netanyahu are approaching levels of hysteria, Steve Rodan reports

Hussein told the London-based Arabic daily *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*.

Arab diplomats and analysts say the king, who welcomed Netanyahu's election in June, has decided that it is better to join the anti-Israel bashers rather than confront them. "The king still likes Netanyahu," a leading Arab analyst who did not want to be named says. "But he can't withstand the Arab pressure. And today everybody in the Arab world, even the aloof King Hassan, wants to reap political capital by attacking Netanyahu."

INDEED, the diplomats say, Netanyahu is regarded by the Arab world as being no match for Palestinian Authority chief Yasser Arafat.

In contrast to the assessment of aides to the prime minister, Arab diplomats say Arafat, rather than Netanyahu, as the clear victor emerging from the Washington summit earlier this month.

As the diplomats put it, an unpopular Arafat managed within a week to recover his mantle of leadership among Palestinians and win political and financial support from most of the international community as he confronted the Israeli army in the West Bank and Gaza.

Nabil Shaath, PA minister responsible for liaison with the international community, agrees. "Europe did a great thing," Shaath says.

"At the outset of the crisis, we didn't have a penny. Our hospitals were without medicine. In these difficult days, we received \$50 million."

Privately, Israeli government analysts agree that the situation has gone beyond their worst scenarios. Israel, they say, is no longer invited in forthcoming conferences in the Arab world, the Cairo economic parley next month being the exception. These include a tourism conference planned in Tunis and a health conference in Morocco scheduled within the next two months.

In some cases, Arab representatives have asked their Israeli counterparts to attend, but as part of a European delegation. The Israelis have refused.

"No project that is on-going has been canceled, but nothing new is being added," an Israeli official says. "Instead, we are spending a lot of time explaining our policies so that things don't break down completely."

But many of the government analysts are convinced that the Arab threats are largely bluster. Israeli intelligence, intensified in the last few months, has not revealed any signs that the Arabs, particularly Syria, are preparing for

imminent war, defense sources say. Arab rulers are said to remain impressed with Israeli military strength and at private meetings with their Israeli counterparts. Arab security officials often raise the issue of Israel's nuclear deterrence.

"This is psychological warfare," a senior government analyst close to Netanyahu says. "The Egyptians have linked normalization to a return to the 1967 borders. They see this is not happening and are now creating tension. But it is clear that Egypt nor Syria has a war option right now. To give in to their demands would only encourage them to rattle the saber again next time they want something. And, they will want more."

NASSER Eddin Nashashibi, for years a leading Arab journalist and adviser to Arab rulers, says the blame for the current crisis does not rest on Netanyahu alone. "The Arabs started attacking Netanyahu before he disclosed his cards," he says in his eastern Jerusalem home. "Netanyahu is to blame because he made statements that no statesman would make. He was too blunt to utter certain sentences and policies hostile to the Arabs in general and to the Palestinians in particular."

Nashashibi says the prime minister has to learn that he can't isolate Israel's relations with the Palestinians from those with the rest of the Arab world, particularly Jordan.

"Palestine is an eternal wound in the Arab world," he says. "Whatever happens in Jerusalem echoes in Amman, Salt, Irbid, Beirut and Baghdad."

Most Arab diplomats expect the anti-Netanyahu campaign to continue, although it might abate during the Cairo economic conference, scheduled for November. The current attacks on Israel divert attention from the unpopular Arab regimes, most of which are plagued by failing economies and rising Islamic extremism.

The goal of the campaign is two-fold, the diplomats say. The short-term aim is to force Netanyahu to order an IDF redeployment in Hebron. The longer-term goal is to topple the prime minister. Several leading Palestinian officials acknowledge that they were disappointed that the gun battles between Palestinian soldiers and Israeli troops did not lead to the passage of a motion of no-confidence in Netanyahu.

"The truth is we thought we gave Labor an excellent chance to get rid of Netanyahu and it didn't seize the opportunity," a senior PA official says. "Some of us are saying that we spilled our blood to help Labor and it never helped us in return."

Arab analysts say that dream might not be far off. Egypt's Tala'at says Netanyahu will be forced to share power by the end of the year. "Netanyahu will be obliged to take the Labor Party as a coalition partner within three months," he says. "His politics are no longer popular."

A friendship that conquered all

Crises were defused and a treaty was signed because Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein trusted each other, Moshe Zak writes

THE 20-year relationship between Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein were marked by mutual trust. That trust was expressed in the king's request to Rabin that the contents of the 1994 Washington declaration officially ending the state of war between Jordan and Israel not be revealed to the foreign ministers of the two countries until the day it was signed.

Rabin faithfully fulfilled the king's request and, only the night before the declaration was signed, invited Secretary of State Warren Christopher to his Washington hotel to show him the declaration which was to be signed the next day at the White House.

The king was especially fond of Rabin even before their first meeting, held immediately after Rabin's election as prime minister in 1974. The king knew that, as ambassador to the US, Rabin was involved in the American-Israeli effort to turn back Syrian tanks which had crossed into Jordan in September 1970 to make contact with Yasser Arafat's "free government" at Irbid.

Hussein opposed Yigal Allon's proposal for the partial return of the territories to Jordan. What the king wanted was Israeli withdrawal from the Jordan Valley, which he could use as a bargaining chip at the 1974 Rabat meeting of Arab heads of state.

Jordan did not fare well at the summit, where the right to represent the Palestinians was taken. But in frank discussions with Rabin in November 1975, Hussein said, "I am committed to relations with Israel, regardless of the decisions at Rabat."

Indeed, Hussein continued talking to Rabin, who was accompanied by Allon and Shimon Peres, and the talks began with discussion about

regional developments and their meetings with world leaders. Then they moved on to practical issues: these could be anything from complaints that the booters on Israeli Navy vessels were keeping the king awake in his Akaba palace, to mayoral elections in Judea and Samaria, from minor border corrections in the Arava to problems involved in keeping the border peaceful.

The atmosphere at the talks was calm, without tension or raised voices, and their mutual respect extended beyond their meetings. In July 1976, Hussein sent Rabin congratulations on the success of the Entebbe operation.

In March 1977, two months before he resigned as prime minister, Rabin asked the king if he would accept an Israeli-made Gallil rifle as a personal present. The king replied, "I will be delighted," and Rabin presented him with an olive-wood box containing a Gallil rifle bearing a gold plaque which read, "To His Majesty, King Hussein. In friendship from Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel."

They were out of touch for nine years, until March 1986, when Rabin, as defense minister in the national unity government, met the king in Paris. It was a month after Hussein announced that he was shelving the year-old diplomatic coordination agreement he had signed with the PLO.

Rabin raised the need to curb PLO terrorism and oppose the organization's leaders, who were using Jordan as a base to plan operations against Israel. Rabin also agreed to Hussein's request that Israel strengthen economic and official links between the Palestinians in the West Bank and Amman. A few months later, he said in a TV inter-

view: "Israel's policy is to strengthen Jordan's position in Judea and Samaria."

In July 1986, before the interview, Rabin and then-prime minister Shimon Peres met with the king and Jordanian premier Zaid Rifai to discuss Jordan's five-year plan for the economic development of the West Bank. Jordan sought Israeli assistance in raising \$1.5 billion to implement the plan, but, in spite of Israel's support, the US Congress allocated only \$18 million as its annual contribution to the five-year plan.

ONLY WHEN Rabin returned to the Prime Minister's Office in 1992 did he renew his frequent contacts with the king. Rabin read every communiqué from Amman and found out that his predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir, had received a written message from Hussein containing a warm farewell to the retiring prime minister. In his message, Hussein praised Shamir for the "mutual trust and candor prevailing between them, which saved the two neighboring countries from an outbreak of violence" during the Gulf war.

Rabin decided to strike while the iron was hot, and instructed the delegation conducting talks with the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation in Washington to agree on a negotiating agenda. To spur the Jordanians, Rabin ordered a generous, unilateral gesture: supplying water to Jordan, which was experiencing a water shortage, beyond the agreed allowance.

The agenda stated, for the first time, that the objective of negotiations was a peace treaty; the issues of Jerusalem and the refugees were not mentioned. The agenda (Continued on Page 5)

ISRAEL JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
 Editor-in-Chief **Moshe Prywes** and the Editorial Board *congratulate*
Prof. SHMUEL PENCHAS, Director-General HADASSAH MEDICAL ORGANIZATION
on his appointment as member of The Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, Washington D.C.

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JERUSALEM: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE
 Monday, October 21, 1996
 Conference Hall, Economics Building, Bar-Ilan University

3:45 p.m. Session One
 Greetings: Yehuda Friedlander, Rector, Bar-Ilan University
 Thomas O. Hecht, Founder & Chairman of the BESA International Advisory Board
 Brian Morris, Past-President, B'nai Brith Canada
 Chairs: Stuart A. Cohen, BESA
 Joel Cuperfain, Institute for International Affairs, Ontario
 Yehoshua Schwartz, Bar-Ilan University: *The Strategic Defense of Ancient Jerusalem*
 Hanan Eshel, Bar-Ilan University:
The Jerusalem Syndrome in Ancient Times: The Dead Sea Sect & Jerusalem
 Tova Cohen, Bar-Ilan University:
Jerusalem in Hebrew Literature: From a Celestial Concept to a Terrestrial Entity

5:30 p.m. Session Two
 Chairs: Shmuel Sandler, BESA
 Max Glicksman, Co-Chair, B'nai Brith Foundation
 Barry Rabin, BESA: *Arab Views on the Status of Jerusalem*
 Shlomo Slonim, Hebrew University: *U.S. Policy on Jerusalem*
 Gerald M. Steinberg, BESA: *Israeli Positions on Jerusalem*

7:00 p.m. Session Three
 Chairs: Efraim Inbar, BESA
 Frank Dimaat, Executive Vice-President, B'nai Brith Canada
 Dore Gold, Director of Foreign Policy to the Prime Minister: *The Future of Jerusalem*

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Taxing times at the Treasury

The fiasco of the Brodet Report has highlighted the tenuous and hostile relationship between the Treasury, the Bank of Israel and the PM's Office, David Harris reports

WHEN David Brodet closes his front door on this week, and puts his feet up in front of the television, somewhere in the back of his mind one question will surely be nagging him: "What do I have to do in order to achieve anything of real economic substance?"

Three weeks ago, Treasury Director-General Brodet held two press conferences publicizing the recommendations of the committee he headed which proposed reforms to Israel's ailing capital markets.

The bottom line of the report was the need to encourage long-term investment. Brodet worked together with a collection of Israel's leading experts on the economy - including professors Amir Barnea and Yitzhak Swari, central bank monetary division head David Klein, and supervisor of capital markets Doron Shorer, on a proposal to encourage people to close their short- and mid-term savings accounts and to look towards 10-year-plus investments in the capital markets.

So far, this proposal has not only failed to be accepted by the cabinet, but has led to increased tension in the relationship between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor. The proposal has left people uncertain as to who is actually running the economy, it has shown up Netanyahu's indecisive streak, brought a call for a no-confidence vote in the government, given the impression that Prime Minister's Office director-general Avigdor Lieberman is even more of a bruiser than people thought, and left large question marks over the futures of Meridor and even Brodet himself.

Sunday's extensive meetings between the cabinet, the Bank of Israel and members of the committee ended with widespread agreement about most of the proposed measures, but taxing interest on short- and mid-term savings was the stumbling block. "The discussions were highly professional and to the point," declared Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky.

Finance Ministry sources said that by Sunday evening, Meridor, who fully backs the entire report, had a majority of ministers on his side, at which point Netanyahu called a halt to the debate and took Meridor aside for a private chat. After some two-and-a-half hours, the two returned and Netanyahu announced a new proposal: to accept the non-savings sec-



tions of the report, but to establish a new three-person panel to come up with alternatives to taxing shorter-term savings. The meeting then continued through the early hours of Monday morning.

On the surface, this was a clever move by Netanyahu: a compromise which won the day. "It was a fair effort by the prime minister to reach a consensus," said Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, who three days before the vote said he fully endorsed the entire report.

"What I find frustrating is that the reason the report was ditched was irrelevant," Professor Barnea told reporters. "It was ditched due to some psychological theory, that I have been unable to comprehend, regarding the possible effect of the taxation on the general public, and power struggles within the government, which I also do not understand."

Netanyahu now faces an anxious two-week wait, to discover if the new team - of Brodet, Netanyahu's economic expert

Moshe Leon and a representative of the Bank of Israel, who in all probability will be second-in-command Dr. David Klein - will come up with a suitable alternative, or if Brodet's original proposals will be put forward yet again, in what could be a last attempt for both him and Meridor to save face.

SO WHY IS Netanyahu so insistent on amending the recommendations? Unlike many of his predecessors,

Netanyahu places a great deal of emphasis on getting the economy right. Indeed, he has taken control of several economic roles previously in the hands of the Treasury, including the whole area of privatization and the Government Companies Authority. At one point Netanyahu even requested the budgetary functions of the Finance Ministry be transferred to his own office.

During his election campaign and countless times since, the prime minister

has insisted there will be no taxation, or in the worst-case scenario, only low taxation. In the opinion of the public, who have flocked to the shorter-term investment options, Netanyahu would be committing a grave error in going back on his word. It is suggested that during Sunday night's debate, Netanyahu's aides, particularly Lieberman, reminded him of his "read my lips [there will be no taxation]" comment made during the fourth annual gathering of Israel's economic experts at Caesarea in the summer.

As for the rivalry between Netanyahu and Meridor, one of the party's "princes," this is just the latest in a series of flash-points between them. When Netanyahu was assembling his cabinet, Meridor was not the first choice for finance minister; Bank of Israel governor Jacob Frenkel was.

Frenkel at first backed Netanyahu's view on the taxation issue, briefly commenting that he was "very happy" with the outcome of the cabinet vote. But in a flip-flop Wednesday, Frenkel said he supports the original report, though with a couple of changes.

The word in the corridors of power over Meridor's future is mixed. Senior sources at the Finance Ministry say he has absolutely no intention of resigning, while others say he is reconsidering his political future.

If the latter is the case, could it really be that the failure to approve the Brodet recommendations is a sufficient factor to warrant resignation, or is this latest saga merely the straw that will break Meridor's back?

"Meridor shouldn't be concerned about last night's decision to postpone taxation on short-term savings," wrote Zvi Lavi in *Globes* on Monday. "He should, however, be concerned about his weak public image taking shape in the mass media. If it weren't for this image, it is doubtful if there even would have been a clash at last night's cabinet session."

It does seem unlikely that Meridor would quit over this single issue; after all, his predecessor Avraham Shohat did not step down after his abortive attempt to tax investments on the stock exchange.

Meanwhile, it has now become clear that Brodet's lifetime career as a civil servant will end early next year, if not sooner. Meridor, it transpired on Tuesday, has asked Mifal Hapayis managing director and life-long Likudnik Shmuel Staviv to take the reins at the Treasury. It is unclear whether this is a case of man-overboard as a result of the report fiasco, or whether Brodet had given notice, or was asked to leave before the issue of the report came into the limelight.

However, despite this latest career move, Brodet must now decide whether he wants to depart with a whimper or a bang. He may decide to step down gracefully after the passing of the 1997 budget, or alternatively, depending on the reception to the new panel's recommendations, he may opt for resignation over a matter of principle.

In either case, the whole "Brodet affair" has shown that the relationship between the Treasury, central bank and Prime Minister's Office, and more importantly, between Meridor, Frenkel and Netanyahu, is fragile and even hostile. This can only be to the detriment of Israel's already burdened economy.

THREE DAY SEMINAR ON THE WORLD OF THE SAGES (חז"ל)

After the destruction of the Second Temple, the Jewish people were confronted with the question - to be or not to be.

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Ask for Romit, Tami or Varda.

(Continued from Page 7) sparked a wave of protest in the Arab world, and Hussein retreated. At the same time, in January 1993, the government announced to the Knesset: "We are moving toward peace with Jordan."

The movement was not as fast as expected, so only after the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the PLO was signed did Jerusalem and Amman agree on the talks' agenda, in October. Following his meeting with Rabin, Hussein announced, "The Hashemite dynasty cannot under any circumstances forgo its status in the holy places in Jerusalem."

But there was a hitch. Peres, while visiting the king's palace in November, expressed reservations

concerning Jordan's demand for preferential treatment in the holy places, out of concern for the reaction by the DOP signatories. Rabin did not panic. After hearing of Hussein's dissatisfaction, he sent Ephraim Halevi, long the secret conduit for contacts with the Jordanian monarch, to Amman. (Halevi, now ambassador to the European Union, was sent this week to try patching up ties between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Hussein.)

That month, the king announced in Cairo that his government had decided to negotiate with Israel and that "Jordan will not shirk its religious and historic responsibility for the sites sacred to Islam in Jerusalem, without any intention of

FRIENDSHIP

[imposing] Jordanian sovereignty over the city."

The formula was adopted by Rabin. That allowed Israeli and Jordanian officers to agree in London on a secret air route for treaty negotiators shuttling between Amman and Tel Aviv.

IT APPEARED that all the threads had been sewn up, and on April 13, Hussein handed Halevi a message for Rabin saying he intended to sign a public declaration of principles at the White House. But before the envoy could deliver the message, there was a terror attack at Hadera's bus station. The trail led to Hamas,

commanded from Jordan.

Rabin and Peres held an urgent press conference in which they publicly warned if Hussein did not act against Hamas, Israel would. The next day a communique was received from Jordan asking whether Halevi had passed along the king's message. Once Halevi had passed on the information about progress in the negotiations, criticism of Jordan was lowered and the way was paved for the final meeting between Rabin and Hussein in London on May 28, 1994.

"In that conversation in London, I realized that the negotiations were on the fast lane to peace," Rabin said in an interview later. The prime minister had good reason for this assumption: he unequivocally undertook to grant the Hashemites

preferred status in the holy places in Jerusalem, recognizing their historic role. This promise satisfied Hussein's ambition to rescue some of the great legacy that he inherited from his grandfather Abdullah.

After that obstacle had been removed, on May 28, the chemistry between the Rabin and the king brought them together seven more times that year.

That doesn't mean there weren't disagreements, but the friendship between the two leaders was the main force in resolving them.

The material in this article is based on the author's book, Hussein the Peacemaker published this week by the Besa (Begin-Sadat) Center for Strategic Studies and Bar-Ilan University.

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הלכה מן האל

Kasparov: Jews and chess go together

Garry Kasparov, the latest in a long line of Jewish chess champions, visited Israel this week. Daniel J. Chalfen discovers that chess and the Jews have a phenomenal link

MY position is complicated," said Garry Kasparov, the world chess champion, on a visit to Israel this week. "I am a Jew by blood, a Russian by culture, Soviet by upbringing," he added, quoting Mikhail Botvinnik, a Soviet Jew who intermittently held the world chess title for 20 years from 1946, and founded the famed Soviet academy where Kasparov learned the game.

Kasparov had been greatly inspired by his first visit here two years ago and, eager to return, jumped at an invitation by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert to open the Israel Chess Championships in Jerusalem, and to visit the site of the Kasparov School, the new chess academy in Ramat Aviv.

"I am half-Jewish and I have great sympathy for the cause of the Israeli people. I very much support the idea of building an academy here, so I could come here not with an empty hand, but to do something tangible," he commented shortly after his arrival on Sunday. "Today there are many new immigrants here, and there are some outstanding chess players. Israel is probably the most natural place to hold the world chess championships. Chess, for a long, long time was associated with the Jewish nation."

Chess first began to flourish in Israel immediately after World War II, when some of the European masters who had survived the Holocaust made their way here. Jews had for a long time been strongly associated with the game, but many leading players were murdered by the Nazis. A few, however, survived because they were taking part in a tournament in Buenos Aires when the war broke out. The absence of Jews from many East European teams in post-war



Kasparov contemplates a move. (Brian Hendler)

Olympiads was testament to the devastation wrought by the Holocaust.

Before the war, chess flourished in the salons of Paris, which were frequented by Russian and German Jews. London also became a major chess center. In the late 1930s, the teams of the Slavic countries and of the Russian emigres in France and Belgium were almost entirely composed of Jewish players. Jews became prominent as both chess theorists and chess players.

There were many Jews among the masters of this period and earlier, including Wilhelm Steinitz, who was world champion between 1866 and 1894, and Emanuel Lasker, world champion from 1894 to 1921.

"If you look at the names of the world champions you see that the majority are Jewish," said Kasparov. "I am not a scientist to study this phenomenon, I am a chess player and this fact proves that this nation has the greatest link to the game of chess. I look at fact and don't ask why, and this helps me to play chess well. I am not a scientist, but there are too many players of Jewish origin to argue with this [fact]."

However, most chess historians believe there is no basis for the claim that Jews invented chess or that King Solomon played it, as is related in the Midrash.

Jewish literature suggests that Jews first began to play chess in significant numbers in the early Middle Ages, the time that the Arabs introduced it into Spain, from where it subsequently spread across Europe. In the 11th century, Rabbi, in his commentary on Ketubot 61b, identifies *nardeshir* with the game of chess.

Yebuda Halevi referred, in his book *The Kuzari*, to the game. He wrote: "... it is unlikely that the weak chess player should beat the strong one. One cannot speak of good or bad fortune in the game of chess, as in a war between two princes. For the causes of the game are open completely to study, and the expert will always be the conqueror."

Maimonides, in his commentary on the Mishna (Sanhedrin 3:3), expresses disapproval of chess when it is played for money, and some halachists suggested that playing chess was time-wasting.

The Jewish attitude toward chess, which in rabbinic literature was largely negative, began to change in 1575, when the rabbis of Cremona, in northern Italy, condemned several other games, but excluded chess from the indictment. In 1718, the rabbi of Ancona, an Adriatic seaport in Italy, differentiated chess from gambling and other "time-wasting" pastimes. Chess therefore became compatible with Jewish life, and, as it did not involve money, it was (and is) permissible to play it on Shabbat, thereby allowing Jews the freedom to develop their skills in the game.

While Kasparov was here this week he visited the site of the Kasparov Academy in Ramat Aviv, played a simultaneous game against 25 opponents, opened the Israel Chess Championships in Jerusalem and had a tete-a-tete with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

"I very much believe in Netanyahu and his ways," said Kasparov. "It seems to me that he is rooking the right steps for a prime minister, steps that will strengthen the state." And with regard to accepting an invitation to Jerusalem by Olmert at such a sensitive time, Kasparov said: "I accepted the invitation to Jerusalem to celebrate its 3,000th anniversary, and this is far more important than the current problems, which will fade away. Jerusalem is the greatest capital in the world today."

Kasparov also met with Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky. "I always admire people of his stature and qualities," said Kasparov.

"We met here and I admire his accomplishments [in Russia] and in Israel," Sharansky was one of the 25 players who had challenged Kasparov in the simultaneous match and one of only three to beat Kasparov.

The two most imminent challenges now facing Kasparov come from Anatoly Karpov - whom he knocked from the position of world champion 11 years ago to become the youngest world champion in history. "He is still my most serious opponent in the world, and within the next year I hope to face him in a match, the date and details of which are still not finalized."

Kasparov will also face, in May, an enhanced version of the IBM computer Deep Blue, which will be more powerful than the one against which he won two games in February and which could think through a million moves a second. The thought of facing a machine is quite intimidating. "I can't employ psychological pressure on the opponent, the computer will never get tired and will not make a mistake due to frustration," Kasparov commented.

But is he concerned? "No," he contends. "My expectations are always to win."

Laughing their way to the top

From comedy clubs to late-night talk shows to the Internet, barbs are flying left and right - get it? left and right? - at Clinton and Dole. Hillel Kuttler reports from Washington

'You folks see the presidential debate last night? I thought it was pretty entertaining. Bob Dole - seriously, didn't he look so lifelike? ... Dole said that he prepared for the debate by getting nine hours of sleep. He slept for nine hours, and I'm thinking, 'Wow, nine hours! My God! One more hour and they could have buried the guy!'

'When you think about it, Dole is actually out of line calling President Clinton 'Bozo' because, you know, Bozo is a clown with a big red nose that wears size 52 pants. President Clinton - oh, never mind! ... It's not fair to call President Clinton 'Bozo' because after all, when Bozo drops his pants, he's not in a hotel room with Paula Jones.'

David Letterman; CBS, Late Show, week of October 7-11

Dole was well-known as a sharp-witted man. "He's one of the few people in national politics who could make a living in humor. His brain is wired for it," said Mark Katz, who writes jokes for Clinton and vice president Al Gore.

But Dole is bending over backward in this campaign to suppress his equally infamous dark side, comedians and Capitol Hill veterans say. Because his wit is so biting - "acerbic" is the favored adjective - it's seen almost as a liability.

"His humor is usually a caustic aside. While it's cutting, it's funny," said Katz. "The interesting thing about him is watching him try to keep his humor in check. You can kind of see the light go off in his head and his teeth clenched down on his tongue."

"I don't think that Clinton has a bent for that kind of witicism, and I think Dole is trying to behave," said retired Texas Christian University history professor Paul Boller, the author of several books on presidents and campaigns. "That probably explains why he's not coming out with these sharp little cracks he's capable of."

NOT ALL comedians would agree that the 1996 campaign lacks humor. Just tune in to *Saturday Night Live* or Letterman's or NBC's Jay Leno's late-night shows.

Same for the stage, particularly in Washington, where politics is the nectar of life.

John Simmons, the self-described "unartistic director" of the local political comedy troupe Gross National Product, calls Dole "an amusing character" to play, and one offering fresher possibilities than an incumbent president. "He's kind of like Reagan because Reagan would dither and look for words, and [like] Bush because of the syntax. Clinton is just stealing Republican rhetoric. That's funny as well."

Dole's 15% tax-cut plan might fall flat to audiences in most of the country, but political sophisticates like Russell make it work for their audiences.

"I just picture [Dole's handlers] talking about it in the kitchen at 11 p.m. and saying, 'How are we gonna balance the budget? Let's take one million children off welfare. Who wants another beer?'"

The consensus is that the best humor is self-effacing, and that the best at it was Reagan, who could also use it to make a point. Who can forget Reagan at 73 saying of Mondale, 56, at their debate, "I will not make age an issue in this campaign. I'm not going to exploit for political purposes my opponent's youth and inexperience."

Historians go back a generation to find a candidate with a natural wit to match Reagan's or Dole's. They cite John F. Kennedy and recall a speaking appearance two years prior to the 1960 race, when Kennedy pretended to produce a telegram from his wealthy father Joseph that read: "Dear Jack, Don't buy a single vote more than necessary. I'll be damned if I'm

going to pay for a landslide."

These days, national and local campaigns place such a premium on laughter that they contract out their jokes, not trusting highly paid speechwriters alone to humorize and humanize the candidate.

There are ground rules. And there aren't. Like the rule of anonymity, Katz would not reveal what jokes he writes for which candidates.

He mentioned several jokes Gore uses to poke fun at his own wooden image - Al Gore is so stiff, his Secret Service code name is Al Gore.

Al Gore looks like he's moving if there's a strobe light on him - but when asked if he, Katz, had written them, he twice said, "These are the vice president's jokes."

Doug Gamble, on the other hand, does not hide the lines he writes for Dole: like when First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton reportedly commiserated with the spirit of departed predecessor Eleanor Roosevelt. And Dole went Mrs. Clinton, and her husband, one better, saying, "My wife is so talented, Eleanor Roosevelt is contacting her."

MOST HIRED guns are partisan and will not write jokes that undermine a candidate in the writer's own party. And they are very careful about for whom they write their scripts.

Landon Parvin, a former Reagan speechwriter, said he still peppers political speeches with humor but shuns offers for isolated one-liners because "a line in the wrong hands is like a child using a gun. Someone can get hurt."

He regrets having relented this summer when he fed a few lines to a "well-known politician." "The candidate used the humor together and it came across as being too harsh, too heavy," he said ruefully. "Humor should be seasoning, not a course or an entree."

Theo there is taste. Clinton's alleged skirt-chasing is fodder for the humorists.

So is Dole's right-arm bandicamp, which he joked about at Wednesday's second and final debate. But the Alzheimer's disease Reagan suffers from now makes his legendary faulty memory off-limits.

Dole's falling off a stand during a recent California campaign trip is iffy. Gamble, while knocking comedians' depiction of Dole as clumsy, said he fed Dole two jokes on the subject: "I was just trying to do the Macarena. I won't do that again."

And the line Dole uttered at both debates with Clinton: "Before I hit the ground, I had a call on my cell phone from a trial lawyer, saying, 'I think we've got a case here.'"

But Russell maintained that everything is fair game, that if a comedian shunned the Dick Morris scandal or Dole's fall, "you could be sued for malpractice."

"You have to talk about it," he said. "We take them at their most vulnerable, like Bush throwing up on the prime minister of Japan."

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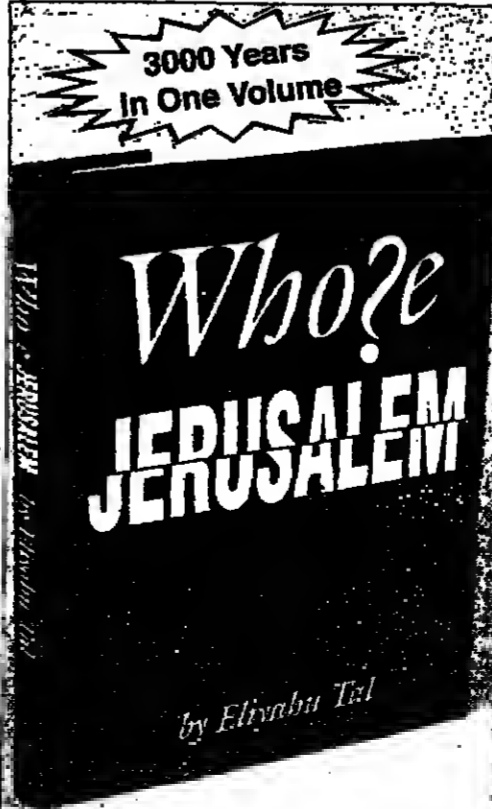
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האזנה מאלו

Cairo conference should be postponed

GUEST COLUMNIST
ZALMAN SHOVAL

NEXT month the Third Economic Conference for the Middle East and Africa is scheduled to convene in Cairo. But has the time not come for the Israeli and US governments to propose that Egypt postpone the conference until a more appropriate date?

At the second economic conference, a year ago in Amman, it was first planned that this year's conference would be held in one of the Gulf Emirates, but the Egyptians moved heaven and earth to ensure it was held in Cairo.

The first conference of the series, two years ago in Casablanca, had more of a political than an economic focus, and not many business deals were made there. This was perhaps not surprising given that this was the first international meeting in which representatives from many Arab countries had even met their Israeli counterparts.

Last year's conference, too, did not fulfill most of its economic expectations. True, a number of interesting projects were discussed, and much exchanging of business cards took place, but although the Jordanian hosts did everything required to instill a positive and friendly atmosphere, again the politicians took center stage. Yasser Arafat, for example, took advantage of the opportunity to attack the Rabin government.

THOUGH theoretically economics and politics are two different things, it is clear that there is a connection between the two. Immanuel Kant believed that if commercial ties between nations were strengthened, wars and conflicts between them would necessarily disappear. The 200 years which have passed since the death of this enlightened German philosopher have in general disproved this optimistic thesis. But the wave of verbal violence and virulent attacks appearing in the Egyptian media, as well as those voiced by high-ranking Egyptian officials against the State of

Israel and its leader, place a particularly large question mark on the relevance of Kant's theory to the Middle East.

True, President Mubarak declared that he opposes these attacks against Israel (which can be seen, by the way, as a breach of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty). But almost nobody – not in Israel and not in America – would suspect that in Egypt, high-level government officials, or even the press, would be able to express opinions contrary to the will of the president.

Sadly, we have not yet seen – regardless of the question of which government is in power in Israel – an attitude encouraging peace on the part of a large segment of the Egyptian intelligentsia or on the part of the professional community there.

Signs of growing tension in Israel-Egypt relations were apparent even during Yitzhak Rabin's term as prime minister; nevertheless, neither any of the

previous Israeli governments, nor the present one, has wanted to exacerbate relations with Cairo – and rightly so.

Yet now the question to be asked is whether there is practical logic in conducting an economic conference in such a negative atmosphere. It should also be mentioned that in spite of the fact that Israel, too, has great interest in such a conference, the main interested parties are Egypt and Jordan.

In any case, the actual financial ties between Israeli businessmen and their counterparts in the international community, including in some Arab countries, are mostly continuing. But, the "Regional Development Bank," the center of which is slated to be in Cairo, has no more than marginal significance for the Israeli economy.

It should not be inferred from the above that the purpose of postponement is in any way to "punish" Egypt, but rather the aim should be to avoid a situation in which the disadvantages of holding the economic conference outweigh the advantages.

Words of surrender

A VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

IT started out, in Madrid as a peace process. In Oslo and Washington three years ago it became a unilateral-surrender process. Now it moves inexorably ahead – the process that will leave Israel strategically in a drastically inferior position when our Arab neighbors launch their next war against us.

They will launch that war regardless of what we do or do not give them in territory or political privileges. They will launch it because they have not yet in their hearts accepted and publicly and sincerely granted the legitimacy of the Jewish people's restored sovereignty in what they, true to Islamic theology, regard as "the heart of the Arab world."

The Netanyahu regime, under unbearable pressure from the US, the European Union, and our own "peace camp," is reluctantly, stumblingly, pushing forward the process, which was launched by the Rabin regime and enthusiastically promoted by the Peres regime.

But the process began long before Shimon Peres's Night Journey to Clouduckooland, where a *djinn* revealed the New Middle East to him.

It began 33 centuries ago, during the Jewish people's post-slavery sojourn in the Sinai Wilderness, when a large majority of the people first displayed the symptoms of what seems to be a "genetically" transmitted disease, *Diasporhea*. I refer, of course, to the incident of the 12 scouts, 10 of whom opposed the plan to enter the Promised Land, causing the people to cry out for a return to the land of bondage; Egypt, instead, they were kept in the wilderness till that weeping generation died out (Numbers 13-14).

Diasporhea appeared again in the Return to Zion from Babylonia 25 centuries ago, when a relatively small number of the exiles, only 42,000, returned in response to the Cyrus Declaration (see II Chronicles 36:22-23, and the books of Ezra and Nehemiah).

It is in the past 80 years that we have experienced the most violent eruptions of *Diasporhea* – at least three – since the time of Cyrus. We massively ignored the opportunities and challenges offered by the wide-open gates during the early years of the British occupation following the 1917 Balfour Declaration; by the

1948 re-establishment of the Jewish state; and by the 1967 Six Day War.

Our strategic and political situations would be vastly better today if we had twice as many Jews living in Eretz Yisrael and at least three to four times as many in Judea and Samaria.

Even some of our ardent peace advocates grant this and have said they would not have been as inclined as they are to relinquish "occupied" areas if many more Jews were occupying them.

WE VOTED a virtual "No" with our feet, and since 1967 we have also voted "No" with our mouths.

The Six Day War had hardly ended when most of us surrendered our right to refer to our land, its areas and its peoples by their historically correct Jewish names, and adopted the names foisted on them by our enemies and their collaborators. The historical "Judea/Samaria" became "West Bank," as though the latter describes a real, historical geo-political or cultural entity rather than just a geo-topographical feature. Like our enemies we speak of Judea and Samaria as "Occupied Territories," despite the opinions of international jurists; non-Jewish as well as Jewish, concerning the legitimacy of our presence there. Or we refer to them indifferently as "The Territories."

"Judea" and "Samaria" are not "merely" biblical antiques, appearing "only" in the Tanach, so that using them makes one "astivatic," "parochial" or "quaint." They also appear in travelogues, gazetteers, histories and encyclopedias of the past two centuries, written and published by Christians and even Moslems.

Even the US State Department and the CIA corrected their maps and documents in the 1980s following a vigorous campaign of letter-writing, telephone calls and meetings by Martin H. Miller of Silver Spring, Maryland, a retired US Treasury official and a veteran warrior in Israel's struggle with the distorting communications media and government bureaus.

ONE OF the saddest features of the process in which we have trapped ourselves is the enthusiasm, the relish, the almost-erotic thrill with which our Israeli and other Jewish post-Zionists speak of the prospect of our "liberation" from "the territories."

When is the last time you heard one of them express heartfelt regret over the prospect of waiving basic Jewish rights and giving up historic Jewish sites in Jerusalem, Hebron and other locales?

The last such expression I am familiar with was that of Mapam leader Ya'ir Tshaban, who was absorption minister in the last Rabin and Peres governments.

Early in the 1980s Tshaban participated in a panel discussion before a group of IDF officer cadets.

Arguing for the re-partition of Eretz Yisrael, he received vociferous support from one cadet: "Give it to them, Ya'ir! Tell them that Hebron means nothing to us, that we're ready to fight only for our country, for Holon and Haifa!"

Tshaban "gave it" – to that cadet. He said: "If Hebron doesn't mean anything to you, you won't have Holon either; you won't deserve it, and you'll have to give it to those who have earned it more, those who love the whole of this land. Can one be a Jew without an attachment for Hebron? It is for justice and peace that I am ready to relinquish it, for there will be no justice and peace unless each side gives up part of the land it loves."

Indeed, the unilateral-surrender process was greatly enhanced and continues to be enhanced by those who, like Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres, Shulamit Aloni and Dedi Zucker and their followers disdainfully regard smaller or larger Jewish sites in Eretz Yisrael as "mere real estate," "just plain territories," "just holes in the ground," and the Tanach, the spiritual bedrock of Jewish life and the basis of our link to Eretz Yisrael, as "an outdated land registry."

Our enemies know full well the difference between our speaking of "giving up" areas and sites precious to us in exchange for peace and "giving back" areas to which we are indifferent and the possession of which we regard as criminal or, at best, as an unfortunate accident.

The classic Jewish garment

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

"And Shem and Japheth took the garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father." (Gen. 9:23)

WHICH item of clothing has the right to be called "the garment"? Is it the black hat, the black coats that Hassidim and Lithuanian rabbis prefer, the kippa, or perhaps the hair coverings married women wear?

Although in the eyes of the world such garments identify one as unmistakably Jewish, there is one garment which by definition is the classic Jewish garment; that is if Jewish garment is defined by what the Torah commands us to wear.

In effect, the *tallit*, either the larger, more colorful version worn during morning prayer, or the smaller model, *tallit katan*, usually worn under the shirt, could be described as the universal Jewish garment, fundamentally because of the *tzitzit*, the fringes on each of the corners; the Bible commands that every four-cornered garment (apparently the usual style of garb in ancient times) have white and blue fringes appended to each corner, the symbol par excellence of our Israelite uniform.

The first intimation of *tzitzit* in Jewish tradition emanates from this week's portion of *Noah*, when the Almighty bestows this unique garb as a special reward for Shem, the son of Noah. Noah, after emerging from the Ark, plants a vineyard.

"And he drank of the wine, and was drunk, and he was uncovered within his tent. And Ham... saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. And Shem and Japheth took the

garment, and... covered the nakedness of their father."

According to the simple meaning of the words, Noah may not have even been aware of the possible ramifications of drinking the juice from the fruit of his vineyard. Yet, when the two other brothers are told by Ham of their father's shame, they hasten to cover his naked body.

What's more, as they carry the blanket to cover him, they walk backwards and turn around, sensitively avoiding any possibility of their seeing their father's nakedness.

When Noah wakes and realizes what has happened, he curses Ham and his descendants with slavery, and blesses the sons who restored his dignity. "Blessed be the Lord God of Shem... God shall enlarge Japheth." (Gen. 9:27)

The two distinct blessings allude to a qualitative difference in the performance of their act. Even though we are told that both brothers cover their father's shame, the text uses a singular form, *vechak* ("and he took") instead of *vayichku*. Rashi comments that this is the way the Torah demonstrates that the action was the initiative of Shem, although Japheth agreed to go along.

The Midrash goes on to say that Shem's descendants were rewarded for their good deed with the commandment of *tzitzit*, eight fringes to be added to each corner of a four-cornered garment.

The link between *tzitzit* and Shem's behavior can be understood from at least two perspectives. First, covering Noah's

nakedness demonstrates that the body is holy, and that even if Noah has temporarily violated his holiness by becoming drunk, there is still sanctity in the human form.

The commandment of *tzitzit* emphasizes the sacredness of the physical body. After all, whatever is truly precious is not left exposed.

Animals, not created in the Divine Image, need not be graced by outer garments; human beings, reflecting the image of God, cover their unique and individual beings with clothing which often, itself, takes on the substance of the sacred – as the *tzitzit*, the prayer shawl, Sabbath and Festival garb and the special garments of the priests (*kohanim*).

Furthermore, wearing *tzitzit* reminds us of God – in the world and in ourselves. The blue thread moves our attention from the blue of the sea to the blue of the heavens, to the Eternal God.

Even the *gematria* (numerical equivalent of the letters) of *tzitzit* points us in the direction of God: *two tzadiks* (180), *two yuds* (20), and *tav* (400), and with eight fringes and five knots adds up to 613, the number of commandments in the Torah.

But there is another aspect to *tzitzit* which makes it an appropriate reward for Shem's behavior – for Shem and not for Japheth.

Commandments fall into two basic categories: some are precise obligations, like daily prayer and eating matza on the first night of Passah; but others are conditional, like constructing a parapet for your roof or append-

ing fringes to your garment. Only if you build a home with a roof must you construct a parapet; only if you have a four-cornered garment must you append the ritual fringes.

Both aspects of *tzitzit* can be seen in Shem: he is rewarded with a mitzva whose message is the sanctity of the human body. Secondly, since Shem initiated the mitzva and acted with wholehearted conviction, he is rewarded by a mitzva which is a symbol of wholehearted conviction.

Only someone who truly desires to serve God keeps the commandments of ritual fringes. After all, one can search all the floors of Brooks Brothers and never come across a single four-cornered garment. Technically, therefore, one need never wear the fringes.

It is told that before the Hafetz Haim left this world, he cried and clutched his *tzitzit*.

Asked to explain his actions, the great Sage admitted that he was sad because he was leaving a world where for the price of a few pennies a person could demonstrate his wholehearted devotion to the Divine.

Shabbat Shalom

Dry Bones



A little help could ease someone's pain

SUPPOSE you take a sip of hot or cold drink and your teeth send lightning bolts through your head and you say "I must make an appointment to see the dentist."

And then you go to the dentist and he says you need three fillings and two should be capped and he needs to do a few X-rays for the possibility of a root-canal job.

And you leave the dentist and go to the bank to see the manager about a major loan to pay for all this handiwork.

But think what it must be like if you don't even go to the dentist because you know that you don't have the minimum funds to pay for even minor treatments.

That's where, with your help, we enter the picture as the Forsake Me Not Fund.

Over the past year, we have been able to provide money for hundreds of senior citizens who need urgent dental care in order to make their lives a little more comfortable.

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 - NIS 100 in loving memory of our parents, Hugo and Miriam Goldberger and Wilbert and Sarah Boncher - Daniel and Shiras Boncher, Tel Aviv. H. Lewandowski, J'm. Clara and Felix Lagnado, Givatayim. Esther Kan, Herzlily. Stephania Mitchell, Tel Aviv.
 - NIS 75 Pept Weiss, Tel Aviv.
 - NIS 50 Maxwell Frielich, Lakewood, NJ. In loving memory of Irving Posner - his children and grandchildren, Mitze Nevo. In honor of my children - Rachel Shimon, Nahariya. Paula and Yitzhak Blum, Nahariya. In memory of Harry - CEE, Haifa.
 - NIS 10 E. Rosenstein, Netanyahu.
 - NIS 180 Jeanne Singer, J'm. In loving memory of Celia (Tevia) Pruzansky - Richie and Milka Fox, J'm.
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 - \$30 Sue Fox, Miami Beach.
 - \$30 in honor of Fred Stamm, for his birthday - Steffi Goodman, Philadelphia (via PEF).
 - \$25 EW and Helen Woodham, Newport, AR. In memory of our parents - Bea and Morris Cheslow, Cranbury, NJ.
 - \$100 in memory of the late prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin - Charles and Paula Herrmann, England.
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 - FF250 in memory of my father, Wessely Brunberg - Jeanne Vassal, J'm.
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(other currencies converted into shekels)
- Progress**
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Jerusalem Post

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Security for the PM at a premium

PRIME MINISTER Binyamin Netanyahu, in contrast to his usual custom, was not holding hands with his wife Sara at the state ceremony to launch the Year of Zionism. In fact, he came to the President's Residence without her. The prime minister may find himself with more time on his hands next year. Several organizations are having second thoughts about inviting him to grace the podium or head table at their special events because of the time and money wasted in elaborate security precautions.

General Security Services personnel have become so paranoid about his safety that invitees have to come more than an hour ahead of time, and are often prevented from leaving or taking a certain route until the prime minister has made his departure.

ALL THE speakers at the Year of Zionism launch, which was the springboard for the 100th anniversary of the first Zionist Congress, referred to the creating of a different kind of Jew in Israel. President Ezer Weizman, when talking about shedding the Diaspora image, said that when he was a boy people used to say of him that he didn't look at all Jewish. They continued to say that until he broke his nose in a traffic accident "and then I looked very Jewish." Perhaps what he meant to say was semitic; because moments later, he mentioned a photograph of his uncle, Chaim Weizmann, taken with King Feisal. "They were both wearing keffiyehs, and I don't know which of them looked more Arab."

NO SUBJECT is free of politics

these days, Rabbi Joseph Green, delivering the Friday night sermon at Jerusalem's Ramban synagogue, was heckled by a congregant who told him that the synagogue was not a place in which to preach politics. What was the good rabbi's sin? He was quoting a verse from the Psalms: "Seek peace and pursue it."

THE SAME verse is worn on the T-shirts of members of Netivot Shalom and Oz Shalom, the religious Zionist peace activists who congregated near the prime minister's official residence on Fridays to hold a public *mincha* service and hear a peace-oriented Torah lecture from Professor Zvi Mizel. Obviously their agenda is not quite the same as that of Women in Black or Peace Now who assemble down the road at France Square.

Some of the Women in Black who walked past the religious peacekeepers allowed themselves a word or two of encouragement, but didn't stay to join in the prayers or to listen to the Bible lesson. As for Peace Now, two of its banner-bearing representatives stalked through the religious group, then did an about turn, but made no comment. The others made no contact at all.

IF PEACE is a political word, so apparently is tolerance. Yeshiva University President Dr. Norman Lamm, speaking the following evening at the Renaissance Hotel in Jerusalem, told the huge audience which crowded into one of the ballrooms that his lecture on tolerance would be "totally non-political." Waiting for the reaction to subside, Lamm said "even your laughter shows me my problem." He almost

GRAPEVINE GREER FAY CASHMAN



James Joyce enthusiasts got to hear 'Ulysses' in Hebrew, read by Zvi Gabay in Dublin.

felt, he added, that he was coming into hostile territory with attackers on both sides of the fence. Denouncing mutual demonization, Lamm called for YU alumni to help to bring about "a treaty of tolerance" between religious and irreligious and right and left—but none of the former YU students present seemed in a hurry to join up.

SEVERAL WOMEN in Israel, Australia and the US have reluctantly crossed lawyer-turned-entrepreneur Gary Leibler off their lists of eligible bachelors. The handsome, personable son of World Jewish Congress vice-president Isi

Leibler and his wife Naomi, Gary Leibler this month announced his engagement to Rosie Landau, a teacher, and the daughter of well-known London-based philanthropists Monique and Ervino Landau. Relatives and friends of both families got together towards the end of last week to toast the young couple on the rooftop patio of the Leibler peehouse in Jerusalem. They included Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, former justice minister Ya'acov Neeman and both of the prospective groom's grandmothers Bertha Porush and Rachel Leibler.

WHAT DO Foreign Ministry wives and mothers talk about when they get together? The same as other mothers—their children, but with a slightly different twist. At a farewell luncheon hosted by Sarah Meron for Michelle Mazel, whose husband Zvi is ambassador-designate to Belgium, Naomi Manor recalled that when she was in Thailand, her youngest son, after learning of the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, barricaded himself in his room against a possible terrorist attack.

Ruth Bavli's contribution was more humorous. Her maid in Paris had repudiated about collecting the Bavli offspring from school. Why? Because there were so many security guards around to protect them and the other Israeli children, that the maid, unaware of the true reason for their presence, thought that the Bavli youngsters were enrolled in a facility for juvenile delinquents.

RECIPROCITY WAS the name of the game this week when Mexico's

ambassador-designate Jorge Alberto Lozoya, without having yet presented his credentials, attended the opening of the Mexican Fiesta at the Hyatt Regency, Jerusalem, within the framework of Jerusalem 3000. Moshe Melamed, Israel's ambassador to Mexico, recalled that when he first arrived in Mexico, he attended a similar function before presenting his credentials. The 70-member Jerusalem 3000 delegation was led by Jerusalem Hyatt Regency owners Victoria and Luis Reimers. Like most of the Mexican women present, Victoria Reimers wore a distinctive, colorful and elegantly draped stole.

SWISS parliamentarians Walter Straumann, Josef Lotcher and Ruth Gonseth Egenter visited the Knesset soon after the resignation of former justice minister and Labor MK David Liba'i, who left the legislature because he was unable to practice law or pursue his academic career while on a Knesset salary. So now he's on a Knesset pension of NIS 18,720 a month, plus a lifetime of free phone calls. Gonseth Egenter, who is a dermatologist, observed that in Switzerland, being a parliamentarian is only a half-time job, and parliamentarians are expected to practice their professions the rest of the time. If Liba'i was allowed to do that, he'd probably be pulling in NIS 100,000 a month.

WHEN politicians meet the press, it's usually because they want to be reported. But when the Konrad Adenauer Foundation arranged a meeting with Israeli media for Dr. Berndt Seite, prime minister of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the shoe was on the other foot. The visiting head of state sounded out the Israeli news hounds to get their views of the Middle East peace process, and asked quite sincerely whether they thought that there was a role which Germany could play.

JAMES JOYCE enthusiasts in Dublin this week heard a Hebrew reading of *Ulysses* by Israel ambassador Zvi Gabay following his presentation of the first Hebrew translation of the book and translations of *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* and *Dubliners* to the James Joyce Society. The translations were given to chairman of the center, Senator David Norris, and to two of its directors Bob Joyce and Ken Monaghan, who are both related to the writer. *Ulysses* was painstakingly translated by Yael Ranan, who remained as faithful as possible to the original text.



Dan Meridor had the privilege of joining Netanyahu and Peres (shown above) on 'The Hartzufim.'

Dan Meridor: A 'Hartzufim' and a gentleman

THE WEEK THAT WAS MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE *Hartzufim* waddled into the debut of their new season last Friday with a new member aboard—the spitting image of Finance Minister Dan Meridor. The new star almost stole the show with a brilliantly anemic performance, in which he gradually evaporated in the midst of a television interview. The real Meridor, in an uncanny replay of the *Hartzufim*, started the week with a blast as the cabinet convened to debate the Brodet Commission Report, only to fade away as the cabinet proceeded to bury it.

At first Meridor was led to understand that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu would support the report. Otherwise, why would he risk bringing it before the cabinet to be quashed? In the first hours of the lengthy meeting, the general atmosphere was favorable towards the report, and most of the ministers seemed to support it.

But Meridor underestimated the persuasive powers of Avigdor Leiberman, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, who vehemently opposed the report's main provision to tax short-term saving programs. As the evening wore on, Leiberman managed to convince one minister after another not to back the report.

Leiberman found a staunch ally in Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, who also objected to the savings tax clause. As Meridor's equally staunch opponent on interest-rates policy, Frenkel relished the opportunity of defeating the finance minister. Besides, Knesset sources said, Frenkel still bears a grudge towards Meridor for stealing the coveted Treasury from his grasp.

At one point in the long drawn-out wrangle, economics reporters were notified of a briefing with Meridor at 8:45 p.m. after the anticipated cabinet vote on the report.

But then one of Netanyahu's advisers whispered in his ear that *Mabat* evening news had reminded viewers of "read my lips" pre-election promises—no new taxes. It was back-off time for Bibi. He decided to postpone the cabinet's decision until a team of directors general reformulate the problematic parts or, in other words, eliminate that troublesome oew tax oo savings programs.

Meridor reportedly came close to throwing in the towel. "It's all lost. I have nothing to do here anymore," he said. Leiberman, the big winner of this round, floored Meridor with a knockout, said political ringside pundits.

Leiberman and Meridor have trodden a long and murky rivalry road. Many observers were convinced Leiberman was settling accounts with Meridor, whom he had accused of attempting a "putsch" against Netanyahu in the Likud primaries. Leiberman also tried to keep Meridor out of the cabinet and did everything he could to lobby for Frenkel to be appointed finance minister.

As for Netanyahu, politicians said a beaten, defeated Meridor suited him just fine. After all, Meridor is the only one of the Likud "princes" who is still considered a major rival to Netanyahu. The prime minister, who didn't want Meridor in his cabinet to begin with, is now interested in seeing him weakened as much as possible to minimize his chances in the 2000 elections.

People close to Meridor say the finance minister has no intention of resigning although some of his closest aides advised him to do so. On the contrary he has decided to "take his gloves off" for the next round and fight just as fiercely for the state budget and his ministry's proposed economic structural changes.

ital markets," was all that Meridor, still a prince and a gentleman, would say. He would not say if he would remain in office if the Brodet recommendations are ultimately rejected by the cabinet.

Sources close to the Prime Minister's Office shed another light on the affair. It was all the fault of the *Hartzufim*, they asserted. Meridor was so offended by being cast as a spineless figure fading away under pressure that he



Avigdor Leiberman helped Meridor play out his real-life drama with the Brodet report. (Brian Hendler)

insisted on standing his ground and refusing to compromise.

NOT TONIGHT, YASSER
An agreement between Israel and the Palestinians was very close, announced government spokesmen backed by American sources early this week. An agreement will be reached this week, perhaps even tonight, media headlines trumpeted the next day. All these announcements were underscored by reports of an imminent meeting between Netanyahu and Arafat to stamp their approval on the accord—this week, perhaps even tonight!

On Tuesday, Foreign Minister David Levy told a waiting world that the agreement for redeployment in Hebron was expected "today," in fact within "a matter of hours." Levy urged Arafat to "stop traveling from one place to another like someone who has all the time in the world and give his people in the negotiating team a green light to close the agreement."

All this time it was Arafat who played the party pooper, repeating in a most irritating manner that the talks were stuck and there was "absolutely no progress."

During King Hussein's historic visit to Jericho after he personally piloted in Arafat, the Palestinian leader suggested that American soldiers should be deployed in Hebron since Israel "kept going on about security" and "trusted neither our soldiers nor theirs." He then flew to Egypt and alongside President Hosni Mubarak announced that Israel's proposals were inadequate.

Arafat watchers debated whether he was practicing his familiar brinkmanship, or playing hard to get to squeeze a few more concessions, or simply playing to the gallery of world public opinion while Israel is being booted on the stage. Were his confident new aggressive statements aimed at pulling the line as close as he could to November's US presidential elections? The Arafatologists finally nodded their heads sagely and agreed. All of the above.

RACE TRACK
The tiresome Middle East was far from Americans' minds as they waited impatiently for the second and final-round television clash between President Clinton and Senator Bob Dole this week. With Dole hinting he would go more aggressively after "personality issues" everyone was expecting a damn good show.

Accompanied Jay Leno was less impressed. On Larry King's CNN chat show, he said the election is indeed a three-horse race: Ross Perot is just a nag. Dole is ready for the glue factory. And Clinton doesn't give a damn—he's out to stud.

BRULIK by DOSH

SPEAKING OF KASPAROV, HOW ABOUT THE BRODET GAMBIT?

TO ACCEPT IT— IS A BLUNDER!

TO REJECT IT— IS A MISTAKE!

IT SOUNDS FAMILIAR

THIS TIME IT'S ONLY ECONOMICS...

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Curve of road around lake is an awkward climb (7)
- Cheese, English, divine taken in daily (7)
- Bill's elf-tale recollected? (7)
- Cleopatra, female? No, quite the opposite meaning! (7)
- Travel oooaccompanied from Ealing? Too difficult! (2,2,5)
- Imperial remover? (5)
- A bit of a rotten ouisance (5)
- Suddenly giving Lancelot a shake-up (3,2,4)
- Honary Morgan, for example, in exciting race around NE Cuba (9)
- Unyielding second row (5)
- Suggest, straightforwardly, leader should go (5)
- Cockney's abrasive shore-bird (9)
- A 2 thief who decided to II (3,4)
- One travelling to ancient city, it's arranged (7)
- I is one, so is U (7)
- Map they unfold, feeling for others (7)

DOWN

- City once ordered to keep record book (7)
- Drunken in a bar, a member of 25's band (7)
- Wood takao from the Corbala area (5)
- Motivation to share drink? (9)
- Cold comfort is to end (5)
- What troubles people in the Canal Zoo, say? (9)
- Inhabitant of New Zealand, I need to be re-settled (7)
- Pity about the signalling system! (7)
- Where customs officers may look, oo matter what (2,3,4)
- Military formation ordered to carry equipment (7)
- Tip given to hatter? (7)
- Stamp, one covering pair in perfect condition (7)
- Cooifers on square extremely lovely—coming before all others (7)
- Clever, to bring back old passenger-vehicles (5)
- Come down for stout (5)

SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1. Honor, 4. Count, 8. Maple, 9. Huddle, 10. Lenden, 11. Goat, 12. Leg, 14. Loan, 15. Arch, 18. Got, 21. East, 23. Eighty, 25. Trivial, 26. Team, 27. Regal, 28. Arrest.

DOWN: 1. Heavily, 2. Neptune, 3. Unwilling, 4. Coast, 5. Union, 6. Twenty, 7. Whirl, 13. Genset, 16. Cottage, 17. Better, 19. Trill, 20. Tyrant, 22. Swing, 24. Bill.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Criminal (5)
- Monk in silent order (5)
- Propeller (5)
- Huge (8)
- Old weapon (5)
- Member (3)
- N Italian city (6)
- Confer holy orders (6)
- Help (3)
- Stringed instrument (5)
- Slaughterhouse (8)
- Make amends (5)
- State of being forgotten (8)
- Heartless (5)

DOWN

- Theatre platform (5)
- Canal-boat (5)
- Exhausted (5)
- Be ambitious (6)
- Adventure (5)
- Exaggerated, histrionic (8)
- Deserter (8)
- Physical force (8)
- Meadow (3)
- Deity (3)
- Drink (5)
- Unclothe (5)
- Firm, reliable (5)
- Wading bird (5)

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הלכה מן האל

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, October 18, 1996

13

Panel: State banks' sale must begin now

EVELYN GORDON

THE government should immediately begin to sell some of the arrangement bank shares on the stock exchange, since it could be years before it succeeds in selling a controlling interest in the major banks, the Knesset Finance Committee agreed yesterday.

Frenkel changes opinion on Brodet report

DAVID HARRIS

BANK of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel has reversed his opinion on the Brodet Committee recommendations, saying on Wednesday night that he now favors taxing interest on savings.

BITS & BYTES

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Edusoft to provide multimedia system to Russian Labor Ministry: Edusoft, a subsidiary of Degem Systems, has been chosen to provide Russia's Labor Ministry with its multimedia, English tutorial system. The projects is worth about NIS 2m.

IEC awards first private generation contracts

ISRAEL Electric Corporation yesterday announced the names of the first four private, domestic companies which will generate electricity here. The firms will operate seven small plants, capable of producing a total of 65 megawatts.



A Parisian walks past demonstrators staging a one-day strike yesterday that grounded most airline flights. The banner reads 'Salaries - employment - public sector, state workers fighting.' (AP)

G.O. Interactive raises \$19m. in London

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

G.O. Interactive Media of Givatayim raised \$19 million in its initial public offering on London's Alternative Investment Market (AIM) Exchange.

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Rail fares to increase by 15% from Sunday

Jerusalem Post Staff

RAIL fares will rise by some 15 percent from Sunday, the Ports and Railways Authority confirmed yesterday.

Trade deficit up 10%

DAVID HARRIS

THE trade deficit, excluding diamonds, totalled \$8.4 billion in the first nine months of the year, up some \$800 million, or 10 percent, on the January to September figure in 1995, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Two foreign firms to expand interests here

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TWO international companies are planning to bring 75 to 100 families from the US to Israel by the end of the calendar year as part of the companies' plans to expand their operations here, according to Alen Sabbag, president of Meredit Corp.'s Real Estate Corp., who is visiting the country.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Table with columns: Currency (U.S. dollar, Pound sterling, German mark, Swiss franc, Yen), Period (3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS), and Rate.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Market up third straight day

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ



STOCKS rose for the third day, on optimism that the government will agree to redeploy troops...

Lebed sacking boosts dollar

LONDON (Reuters) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin's firing of security chief Alexander Lebed...

Following an increasingly ramorous struggle in the Kremlin between Interior Minister Anatoly Kutikov and Lebed...

London shares largely ignored events in Russia and ended firmer, buoyed by the return of bid speculation in drugs group Zeneca...

Dow stays on record run

NEW YORK (AP) - Blue-chip stocks pushed further into record territory yesterday as interest rates fell in the bond market...

WALL STREET REPORT

Technology-dominated sectors turned lower, pressured by some profit-taking in computer-industry names...

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with columns for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FF and corresponding rates.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Main table of stock prices and changes, categorized by Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, London, and Frankfurt.

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates.

NYSE STOCK MARKET table with columns for Name, Price, and Change.

New York market indexes table showing DJ Industrial, NYSE, and other indices.

NYSE stocks table listing various stock symbols and their prices.

Israeli stocks in US table listing companies like Amtek and their US market performance.

Commodity prices table listing various goods and their current market prices.

Commodity trading table with specific trade details.

Money market table showing interest rates and other financial metrics.

Dollar crossrates table showing exchange rates for various currencies.

Labor rates table listing wages and labor market indicators.

Foreign financial data table providing international market news.

US commodities table listing prices for various raw materials.

London commodities table listing prices for goods traded in London.

Spot market metals table listing prices for various metals.

New York metal futures table listing prices for metal derivatives.

London metal fixes table listing fixed prices for metals in London.



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Russia allows Jewish Agency to reopen

AFTER a six-month-long wait, the Russian Justice Ministry yesterday authorized the Jewish Agency to continue its operations throughout the Russian federation as a public body.

The new license, issued in accordance with new legal procedures in Russia, will allow the agency to operate in the variety of fields and activities with which it has dealt until now, an agency spokesman said.

Under the new license, the Jewish Agency in Russia is defined as a local public body of national scope founded by a group of Israeli citizens and local Russians.

This will allow the agency to continue dealing with all areas in which it has been active until now, the spokesman said, including "assistance to Jews interested in returning to their historic homeland in accordance with existing Russian laws."

BATSHEVA TSUR

The agency began operations in the former Soviet Union after perestroika, but this spring ran into difficulties with the Russian authorities, who said it had to be licensed under new laws. The licensing process began almost immediately, but took some six months to complete.

Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, who arrived in Moscow to monitor the licensing yesterday, said that "the policy of separating Russian-Israeli diplomatic relations from ties between Russia and the Jewish Agency as a worldwide voluntary body" had proven successful. Throughout the relicensing process, he added, "the agency had been sure to obey Russian law while maintaining a parallel request to continue [its] activities."

During the period starting April

2, when the new Russian requirements went into effect, aliyah activities continued. However, the Russian authorities imposed various limitations on the agency, including closing its office in Birobidzhan and the breaking up of a seminar for emissaries in Pyatigorsk.

At a Moscow press conference yesterday, Burg thanked US President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and Ambassador Thomas Pickering for their "personal involvement and unstinting support." He said Jewish communities and leaders worldwide had also been involved in the political and diplomatic connections which made the relicensing possible.

He also thanked the Russian government for "the close cooperation throughout the process, and for allowing the agency to continue operating" until the license was granted.

Histadrut comptroller's report bashes Hapoel

THE Histadrut comptroller's report exposes grave financial and other irregularities in Hapoel, raising suspicions of criminal acts by senior officials in the sports association.

The findings in comptroller Alexander Cohen's report, which was presented to Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz yesterday, raise doubts about Hapoel's ability to survive, due to its financial deficit, severe mismanagement and the lawsuits pending against it.

Peretz said he would wait for the Histadrut's legal adviser's opinion before discussing the report in the Histadrut's board.

The report reveals that NIS 220,000 of Hapoel funds ear-

MICHAL YUDELMAN

marked for the Sportiada games three years ago was transferred to an advertising company, where it was allegedly used to finance the primary campaign of a senior Histadrut official. This affair is being investigated by the police.

The report also reveals that the Sportiada's opening event in 1992, which exceeded its budget by 79%, was produced by a board member who received the project with no tender, in violation of regulations.

In the 15th Hapoel games, the board of directors insured all its athletes with an insurance agency whose proposal was flawed, the

report states. In some cases, athletes paid insurance premiums but received no coverage in exchange.

In addition, Hapoel officials contracted with suppliers without soliciting bids, preferring to make deals with people they knew.

The report also finds that Hapoel's financial reports did not present an accurate picture of the association's financial situation.

The report castigates Hapoel's chairman Yoram Oberkovich and director-general Ya'acov Avimor for poor decision-making. Avimor was sharply criticized for irregular management.

Several senior Hapoel officials have been questioned during the past year by police investigating alleged irregularities.

Switzerland denies stalling investigation of Nazi loot

SWITZERLAND yesterday rejected the charges that it is stalling on its investigation of Nazi loot, saying it will give a full accounting at the proper time.

"This is really not a matter that is neglected," said David Vogelsanger, the political affairs officer at the Swiss Embassy in Washington. "We will give a full account of all these things when it is possible, and that needs time."

On Wednesday, Senator Alfonso D'Amato, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, charged that Switzerland is moving too slowly in its inquiry into dealings with the Nazis. That inquiry, which is expected to begin in April, is scheduled to last up to five years.

"It's the old game of delay, delay. They want to stall this till there is no memory of the survivors," the senator said at a special Banking Committee hearing in New York.

Also speaking at that hearing was Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, who said the mounting evidence regarding loot indicated that the Nazis did not simply want to kill

**MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK**

Jews, but "they wanted Jewish money. It came down to money."

"How is one to explain the fact that Switzerland collaborated with Hitler's agents in keeping Jewish money in their safes? For what purpose?" Wiesel asked. "Why didn't they speak up earlier?"

However, Vogelsanger said, "There is no doubt that Switzerland will give a full accounting and will open all the books."

He also noted that the Swiss inquiry, which is expected to win final parliamentary approval in December, is not processing individual claims. There is "a dangerous confusion" between the dormant assets in the Swiss banks and the gold stolen by the Nazis from European central banks.

"These are two totally separate matters," Vogelsanger said.

The dormant accounts in private Swiss banks is the focus of the independent committee, chaired by American banker Paul Volcker,

that will arrange for an audit of the Swiss banks to try to determine heirs. It is holding its second meeting today in Zurich and is expected to announce guidelines that will govern the audit.

"The Volcker Committee was set up when we were talking about unclaimed accounts," Vogelsanger said. "Now we are talking about huge quantities of gold, and that is not primarily a Jewish issue."

Meanwhile, Britain and the US are studying a proposal to give an estimated six tons of gold confiscated from the Nazis and held in London and New York banks to Holocaust survivors, a Jewish group said yesterday.

British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind has written to the World Jewish Congress saying he would reach a decision soon, after a study of the legal ramifications is completed, a WJC spokesman said.

He added that a decision also is expected shortly from US President Bill Clinton, whom he described as "our major ally" in the fight to restore assets confiscated from Holocaust victims.



National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon at last night's lecture marking the 15th anniversary of the death of Moshe Dayan. (Dan Ossendriver/Israel Sun)

Sharon troubled by pace at which Arabs are rearming

NATIONAL Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said yesterday that he is disturbed that Israel may lose its power of deterrence in light of the pace at which Arab states are rearming themselves.

"Alongside the peace negotiations, we must remember that basic Arab hostility has still not vanished," he said in a lecture at Tel Aviv University's Moshe Dayan Center marking 15

years since Dayan's death. "While their words may have changed, their intentions remain the same; while their tactics may have changed, their strategy remains," he said.

He said the Arabs must, as a first step, put an end to their race for more arms as a confidence-building gesture.

"The second step," he continued, "is arms reduction. Israel must see this happen."

He also said the country is facing a water shortage, adding that he could not understand how it had agreed to supply Jordan with a vast amount of water every year. He also said the sections of the agreement with the Palestinians pertaining to water must be changed. (Itim)

Eitan tells local council heads to clean up

LIAT COLLINS

"A town is not an ear. A town needs to be cleaned every day." With these words, Environment Minister Raphael Eitan opened his speech at a conference of local council heads yesterday.

The conference focused on the problem of litter in cities and towns. Eitan mentioned the case of the Hadera mayor who is being prosecuted for not removing garbage that has accumulated throughout the town.

Eitan said the solution to the garbage problem is to convert it into electric energy and use this energy to operate water desalination plants. He said some international companies have shown interest in the idea. In the meantime, however, the garbage from the Dan region will be transported to the Oron landfill in the south, Eitan said.

Eitan wants to close the Hirya dump near Tel Aviv after studies have shown it is a health and environmental hazard and that the birds that fly above it pose a threat to aircraft using Ben-Gurion Airport.

Eitan said many council heads are not sticking to the regulations for keeping their towns clean.

On a different subject, ministry Director-General Nehama Ronen said quarries that are not being run properly or pose a threat will be closed immediately, even if this entails economic loss to the operators.

Third Way promoting Knesset declaration to mark assassination

LIAT COLLINS

THE Third Way wants representatives from all Knesset factions to sign a declaration marking the first anniversary of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin next week.

The parties would pledge to preserve the principles of democracy and make an effort at creating a national consensus around common values. The text of the pledge has been approved by Speaker Dan Tichon, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, and MK Ra'anan Cohen, chairman of the Labor faction.

The preamble to the declaration describes Rabin as someone who fought for the establishment of the State, headed its army, and "led the country in the perilous but hopeful quest for peace and security and

was murdered on the way."

The text says the assassination of a prime minister is a threat to democracy and obliges a national effort at ensuring it never happens again. The clauses are:

"We pledge to do our best to unite the country in its quest for peace, security, and freedom, and the realization of the basic values contained in the Declaration of Independence.

"We pledge to use only democratic means, parliamentary debate, and elections in our struggle, while maintaining a cultured and pertinent style to present a public example.

"We pledge to abstain from activities and speech which would widen the gap and polarization [in society] and do all we can to lessen the gap among different sectors of the society."

A petition that the government declare November 4 a national day of mourning was submitted to the High Court of Justice yesterday by Shmuel Sa'aria, a member of the Bar Association's central committee.

"He said he had submitted a recommendation to this effect to the Ministerial Committee on Ceremonies and Symbols. He has not received a reply, but has seen media reports that his proposal was rejected.

Itim contributed to this report.

The eight-page New York Times Weekly Review including US and world news and views, business, arts and crossword distributed free with THE JERUSALEM POST every Monday

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three seriously hurt in traffic accidents
Three people were seriously injured in traffic accidents yesterday. Two motorcyclists were hurt when a minibus collided with their bike on the Jerusalem-Dead Sea road. In Kiryat Malachi, a three-year-old boy was seriously injured when he was struck by a hit-and-run driver. Itim

Weather increases chance of fires
The Fire Department has been put on alert as the hot, dry weather forecast for the coming days increases the danger of forest fires. The department has requested that farmers not burn scrub, that people not throw lit cigarettes out of car windows and that picnickers insure that all fires they build are completely extinguished. Itim

Palestinian's body dumped by army base
The body of a Palestinian man was dumped from a car near the gate of an army base near Hebron last night. The scurry ordered the driver to halt and fired into the air until he obeyed. Soldiers then captured the men in the car, the army said. Ariele O'Sullivan

Mother, daughter murder suspects released
Police yesterday released Bella Steiman, 45, and her daughter Ilana, 21, who are suspected of having murdered their husband and father, Julio Steiman, who had a severe case of Parkinson's disease. After being held for a month, the two were released on NIS 20,000 bail each because police could bring no evidence to justify their further detention. The southern district attorney is drawing up an indictment against them.
According to police, the two confessed to the murder upon being arrested and reenacted it. But the two have since retracted, saying they had confessed under pressure from police investigators, who told them it would be better to confess to a mercy killing than to be held in jail with prostitutes. Itim

CHIRAC

(Continued from Page 1)
Orient House, but could not violate the official position of the European Union, which is that every EU foreign minister that pays an official visit to Israel must visit the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem.
Chirac will start his tour in Damascus, where he will hold three meetings with President Hafez Assad. On Monday, he will arrive here and meet with President Ezer Weizman, Netanyahu, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, and Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres. Chirac will address a session at the Technion on the future of French-Israeli relations.
On Tuesday, he plans to meet Christian religious leaders in Jerusalem. He was originally planning to spend only five minutes at the Western Wall, but after a protest by the Foreign Ministry, he agreed to lengthen his stay to at least 15 minutes and meet with a rabbi.
The Foreign Ministry also complained that Chirac was not organizing the customary reciprocal dinner - which the guest usually hosts the day after Israeli officials host him - but instead was planning to host Palestinians at the French Consulate in Jerusalem.
Last night, however, officials said that while Chirac will still not host a dinner, the event at the French Consulate has been cancelled.
Chirac will also visit the Palestinian-controlled areas, meeting with Yasser Arafat in Ramallah, where he will address the Palestinian Legislative Council - a plan that has raised official eyebrows, since Chirac refused an invitation to address the Knesset.

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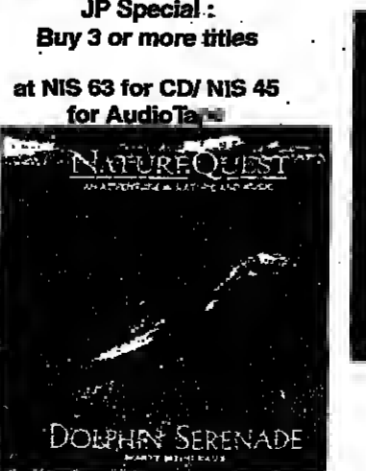
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הקדמה מאלו

Ulker beats foul-plagued Maccabi, 84-80

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

TEOMAN Alibegovic can put away his suitcase. After leading his club, Ulker Istanbul, to an 84-80 Euro League victory over Maccabi Tel Aviv last night, the Slovenian foreigner - rumored on his way off the club because of poor Euro League play - could probably get elected mayor of Istanbul.

Alibegovic earned a reprieve by hitting three three-pointers when Ulker needed them in the second half, while Maccabi was shooting blanks in dropping its second Euro League game, ending the first round of play in Group A at 3-2.

That record could easily have been 4-1 had it not been for some shoddy foul shooting, poor shot selection and another inexplicably lame performance by Randy White. Once again White, who totaled only nine points on the night, watched most of the second half from the bench, where he went with four fouls with over 12 minutes left in the game.

It wasn't only the fact that he went to the bench so early that was annoying, but rather the way he committed the fouls. The last came on an offensive foul that was unnecessary when White attempted to rebound a poor shot, symptomatic of Maccabi's inability to set up any offensive flow in the second half.

White wasn't the only one in foul trouble. Nadav Henefeld also picked up his fourth early, resulting in the depleted Maccabi frontcourt - an injured Constantin Popa did not dress for the game - scoring only six points in the second half, all by Buck Johnson.

It was that ability to score inside, plus good defense against the three-crazy Turks, that allowed Maccabi to lead in the first half. Borko Radovic showed the way in the early going, cutting through the Turk defense to lead his club to a 14-10 lead as Maccabi ran off to an 8-0 spurt. Radovic also played brilliant defense and made a sensational pass inside to White to give Maccabi a 21-15 lead midway through the first half.

However, as has also been the case too often this season, the aggressive Radovic was called for his third foul early in the first half. Fortunately, Derrick Sharp came off the bench and supplied an instant lift with a three-pointer, while Alibegovic got whistled for his third foul. Maccabi exploited his absence to grab a 27-19 lead before the Turks went on an 11-3 rampage which included two of only three three-pointers made in the first half. They might have even gone off ahead had Hakki Erdemay made the breakaway dunk he blew right before halftime. But it was Maccabi's blowing four foul shots - two by Radovic - that prevented the team from leading by more than 39-36 at the buzzer.

Radovic managed to keep Maccabi ahead in the early going of the second half, but he and his teammates were unable to penetrate the Turks' zone defense beyond that. Henefeld went to the bench with his fourth foul, fol-

lowed by White, and suddenly there was no one to guard Haluk Yildirim underneath. When Radovic joined his teammates on the sidelines with his fourth with just over 12 minutes left, Maccabi lost another key offensive force, and the Turks were back in the game.

Alibegovic started the Turkish onslaught with five straight points to give Ulker a 55-54 lead. Oded Katash and Brad Leaf struggled to keep some kind of Maccabi offense going, but the ball rarely went inside anymore, and Doron Sheffer failed to provide much spark off the bench. The short line-up tried valiantly, but Alibegovic answered Maccabi's attempts to get back into it with three-pointers, giving his club a 72-69 lead with five minutes left.

Maccabi had time to regroup, but then Dan Godfred - who had been quiet offensively most of the game - hit two important baskets underneath against the depleted Maccabi interior defense. Henefeld and White being careful not to foul out. Katash helped the Turks by missing two free throws down the stretch, but by then the victory, which had been within easy reach, was out of Maccabi's grasp.

Alibegovic continued his bombardment of Maccabi's hoop, firing up yet another three-pointer, his fourth of the night, to send the 10,000 fans into a victory dance and make it 80-74 with just over a minute left. When Katash stole the ball moments later and scored on a breakaway, it looked like Seherf's club might still pull the game out.

But the Turks' superb point guard, Othum Ene (16 points) scored on a drive and Erdemay hit two foul shots to seal the victory.

The loss again raised question marks about Maccabi's front-line depth, and its ability to break a zone defense from outside. The club ended up 6-21 from three-point range, not nearly good enough. And while Maccabi's aggressive defense was certainly responsible for its better moments, it also contributed to the mammoth foul problems that handcuffed the offense down the stretch.

Katash led Maccabi with 19 points, 17 in the second half, while Johnson had 14. Alibegovic had 19 and Erdemay 18 for Ulker.

Maccabi now takes a break from Euro League competition, with the next game on November 7, vs. Limoges. Hopefully by then Seherf and assistant coach Yoram Harosh will have Popa back to spell his big men, and the club will have recovered from letting an important road victory slip away in Ulker.

In other Group A action last night, CSKA Moscow beat Limoges, 74-65 and Stefanel Milan beat Panionios, 90-66.

GROUP A

Team	W	L	Pts
Stefanel Milan	3	1	8
Maccabi Tel Aviv	2	2	6
Ulker	2	2	6
CSKA Moscow	3	3	6
Panionios	3	3	6
Limoges	1	4	4

Braves force seventh game

Maddux holds Cards to one run as Atlanta wins

ATLANTA (Reuter) - Four-time Cy Young Award winner Greg Maddux held the St. Louis Cardinals to one run as the Atlanta Braves forced a seventh and deciding game in the National League Championship Series with a 3-1 win Wednesday.

Maddux and reliever Mark Wholers combined on a six-hitter to turn the series into a one-game, winner goes to the World Series showdown.

For the second consecutive game, the defending world champions staged off elimination as Atlanta's vaunted pitching staff shut down the St. Louis attack.

Maddux shook off his Game 2 loss, with a masterful Game 3 performance from the mound. He allowed six hits and struck out seven without a walk through seven shutout innings before tiring in the eighth, when the Cardinals got their lone run.

"I knew he was going to be tremendous tonight," Atlanta catcher Javy Lopez said of Maddux. "He proved tonight that he's the best pitcher in the game," said Wholers, who picked up his fifth save of the 1996 post-season campaign.

Maddux lowered his post-season ERA to a stingy 1.69 and threw no more than five pitches to any batter except St. Louis's Game 2 hero Ron Gant, who still went 0-for-4.

"We didn't make a whole lot of contact. This was a tough day to be a hitter," said Cardinals manager Tony La Russa. "Just excellent pitching on both sides."

Two nights after exploding for 22 hits in a 14-0 rout, the Braves scratched out single runs in the second and fifth innings before adding an insurance run in the eighth against surprise rookie starter Alan Bencs and three relievers.

In last night's Game 7 in Atlanta, the Braves were scheduled to send Tom Glavine against the Cardinals' Donovan Osborne in a battle of left-handers to decide who faces the American League champion New York Yankees in the World Series.

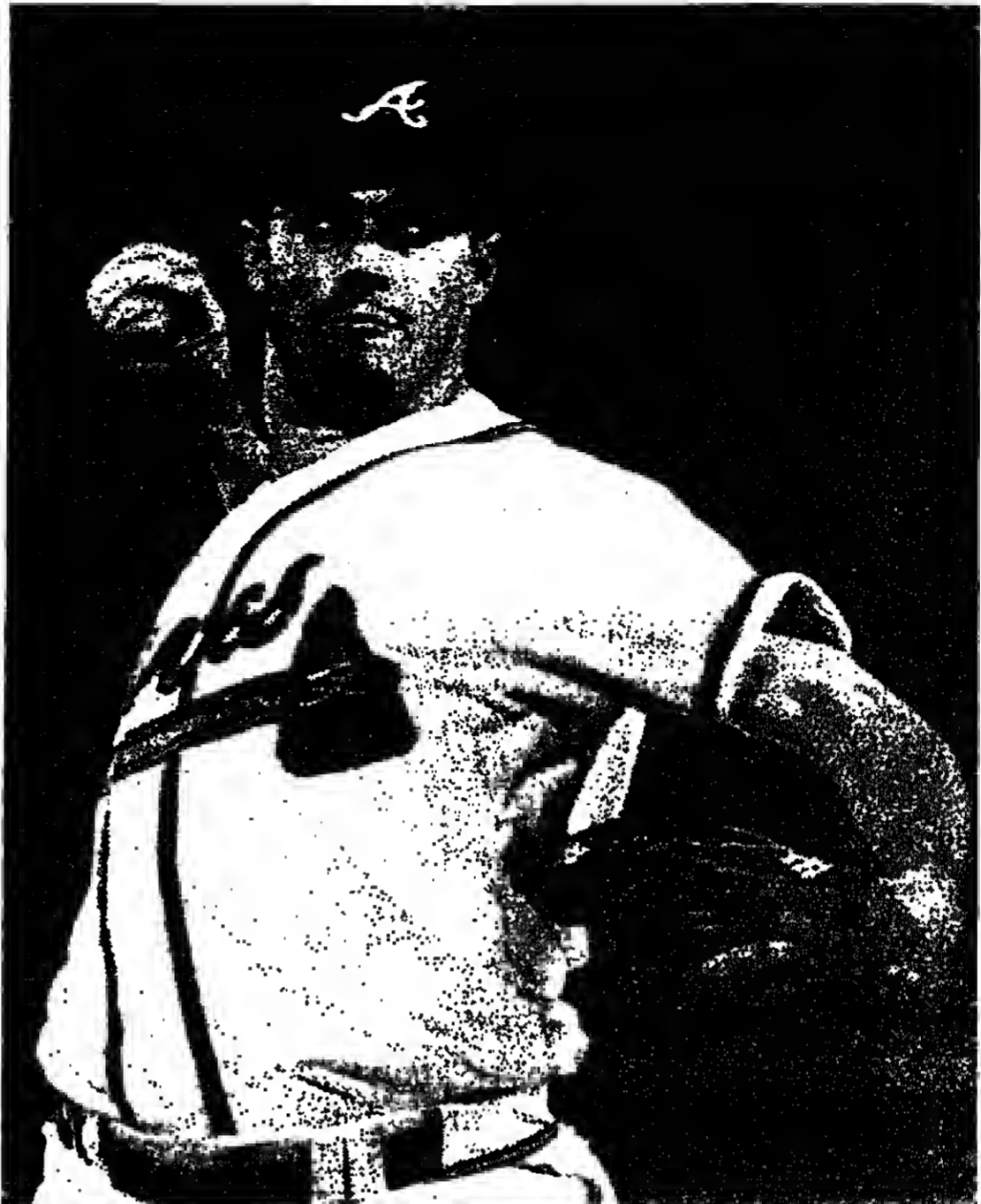
The Braves opened the scoring in the second inning. Fred McGriff singled and Lopez, who needed intravenous fluids before the game to help combat the effects of the flu, doubled to right-center, sending McGriff to third. Jermaine Dye then lifted a sacrifice fly to right, bringing McGriff home.

After allowing a one-out single to Willie McGee in the first, Maddux had shut down 11 in a row until Gary Gaetti singled to lead off the fifth. But Maddux got the next three batters and Atlanta scored again in the bottom half.

Bencs hit Jeff Blauser and Maddux sacrificed him to second before Mark Lemke, who had four hits in Game 3, delivered an RBI single to center to make it 2-0.

Bencs, who was named to start in place of Osborne just hours before the game, was charged with two runs on three hits in absorbing the loss.

In the seventh inning the Braves had an apparent run that would have made it 3-0. Lemke bounced a single in front of the plate that St. Louis reliever Mark Petkovsek threw past first for a two-base error, putting Lemke on third. He scored on a flyout by



RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB - Atlanta's Greg Maddux shook off his Game 2 blues and pitched a winner.

Chipper Jones, but La Russa appealed, saying Lemke left third before the catch. Third-base umpire Bob Davidson upheld the appeal, although replays showed Lemke appeared to break for home after the catch.

"Several (of our) guys jumped at it right away and they were real clear in their minds he left early," said La Russa. That's when the Cardinals gave Atlanta fans a few nervous moments.

In the top of the eighth with two out Maddux allowed singles to Royce Clayton and Willie McGee that put runners at the corners.

Cox brought in Wholers and he promptly bounced a wild pitch past Lopez that enabled Clayton to score and make it a one-run ballgame. But Wholers scuttled down, getting Gant to fly out before setting down the side in order in the ninth to secure victory.

In between, the Braves had given Wholers a bit of breathing room when Rafael Belliard stroked a single to shortstop that Clayton couldn't handle, bringing home Lopez for a 3-1 lead. Lopez had been hit by a pitch from Todd Stottlemeyer and advanced to third on Dye's single to right-center. The Braves pitchers credited the

Atlanta fans with inspiring them to the huge victory. "The fans got me excited," said Maddux. "I had more adrenaline tonight from the crowd." Said Wholers: "They were great tonight, screaming and jumping

for nine straight innings. "This was the loudest I think I've heard our crowd since '91. Once you get that 10th man on your shoulders it give you a little extra push."

BRVES 3, CARDINALS 1

ST. LOUIS	AB	R	H	BI
Clayton ss	4	1	1	0
McGee lf	4	0	2	0
Gant cf	4	0	0	0
Bjardn cf	4	0	1	0
Geett lf	4	0	1	0
Mabry 1b	4	0	1	0
Papuzzi c	3	0	0	0
Gallego 2b	2	0	0	0
Sweeney ph	1	0	0	0
Stottlemeyer p	0	0	0	0
Alfonse p	1	0	0	0
Larkford ph	1	0	0	0
Fossas p	0	0	0	0
Petkovsek p	0	0	0	0
Alcoa 2b	1	0	0	0
Totals	33	1	6	0

ATLANTA

AB	R	H	BI
Clayton	4	0	0
Lemke 2b	4	0	2
CP Jones 3b	4	0	0
McGriff 1b	4	1	0
Keeble lf	1	0	0
Alfonse lf	2	0	0
J Lopez c	3	1	0
Dye lf	2	0	1
Blauser ss	0	1	0
Bellard ss	1	0	1
GWatters p	2	0	0
Wholers p	1	0	0
Totals	28	3	7

St. Louis 000 000 010 - 1
Atlanta 010 010 012 - 3
E - Petkovsek (1), DP - St. Louis 1, LOB - St. Louis 5, Atlanta 9, 2B - Lopez (4), SB - Lopez (1), S - GMaddux, SF - Dye.

St. Louis IP H R ER BB SO
Alfonse L-D-1 5 3 2 2 2 4
Fossas 1 0 0 0 0 0
Petkovsek 1 2 0 0 2 2
Stottlemeyer 1 2 1 1 0 2

Atlanta IP H R ER BB SO
GMaddux W-1-1 7 8 1 1 0 7
Wholers S-2 1 0 0 0 1
HBP - by Stottlemeyer (JLopez), by Alfonso (Blauser), WP - Petkovsek, Wholers.
T - 2-41, A - 52,067 (52,710).

NLCS
Wednesday: Atlanta 3, St. Louis 1
Last night: St. Louis at Atlanta, 8:11 pm (Series tied 3-3)

WORLD SERIES
Tomorrow: NL champion at New York, 8:01 pm
(All times EDT, Israel time 6 hours ahead)

ON TV
Cable TV's Sports Channel 5 will broadcast last night's seventh game of the NLCS tomorrow at 7 pm local time. Sports Channel has announced its intention to show delayed broadcasts of the World Series. Further information will be printed when available.

Barnes header gives Liverpool Cup win

SION, Switzerland (Reuter) - John Barnes' header in the 60th minute lifted Liverpool to a 2-1 win over Sion in a Cup Winners Cup second round first leg yesterday.

Christophe Bonvio had given Sion an early 1-0 lead in the 11th minute with a fine individual effort, breaking through the Liverpool defense to round goalkeeper David James and fire a shot just inside the far post.

Robbie Fowler equalized for Liverpool in the 24th minute when he pounced on a loose ball which Sion keeper Stephan Lehmann had failed to control.

The result keeps Liverpool on course to become the first English club to win all three competitions, although coach Roy Evans is not taking the second leg for granted.

"It puts us in a good position but I'm still wary of Sion who are a good side with a super keeper. They're still a force to be reckoned with," he said.

Galatasaray 4, PSG 2
Paris St. Germain has its work out if it is to defend its European Cup Winners Cup title.

The Turks, inspired by Romanian international midfielder Gheorghe Hagi, took a 2-0 lead within the first 15 minutes of the second round first leg tie through striker Hakan Sukur and midfielder Tugay Kerimoglu.

But in an action-packed first half Galatasaray was then let down by goalkeeper Hayretin Demirbas, who gifted the French league leaders two vital away goals within two minutes.

PSG captain Paul Le Guen scored with a speculative 35-meter shot that Demirbas allowed to creep inside his right-hand post, and then Brazilian Julio Cesar equalized with a looping header which the Turkish keeper could only fumble into his own net.

Sukur restored Galatasaray's lead with his second goal of the night just after the half hour, and Hakan Unsal gave the Turks a two-goal cushion shortly after the interval.

The home side dominated the second half and could have sewn up the tie with more goals, but the holders hung on and gave themselves hope for the second leg in Paris.

In Nimes: Nimes (France) 1, AIK Stockholm (Sweden) 3 (0-2). Scorers: Nimes - L. Sebastian; Fidan; AIK - Stoddolm - Piscal; Sandgren, Cesar Pachá T2; Mathias Johansson 70.

In Lubiana: Olimpija Lubiana (Slovenia) 0, AEK Athens (Greece) 2 (0-1). Scorers: Hristos Kostis 12, Timour Ketsubaia 49.

In Istanbul: Galatasaray (Turkey) 4, Paris St Germain (France) 2 (3-2). Scorers: Galatasaray - Hakan Sukur 5, 31, Tugay Kerimoglu 14, Hakan Unsal 49. Paris St Germain - Paul Le Guen 19, Julio Cesar Dely Valdes 20.

In Sion: Sion (Switzerland) 1, Liverpool (England) 2 (1-1). Scorers: Sion - Christophe Bonvio 11, Liverpool - Robbie Fowler 24, John Barnes 60.

In Florence: Fiorentina (Italy) 2, Sparta Prague (Czech Republic) 1 (1-0). Scorers: Fiorentina - Gabriel Batistuta 7, Stefan Scheerhartz 57. Sparta Prague - Horst Siegl 81.

In Barcelona: Barcelona (Spain) 3, Red Star Belgrade (Yugoslavia) 1 (2-1). Scorers: Barcelona - Giovanni 33, 34, Luis Figo 54. Red Star Belgrade - Bratislav Zivkovic 21.

In Bergen: Brann Bergen (Norway) 2, PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands) 4 (2-2). Scorers: Brann Bergen - Mors Nar Mjelde 29, 34. PSV - Philip Couco 90.

Costa, other seeds continue their advance at Eisenberg Open

THE \$328,000 Eisenberg Israel Open saw some tough battles yesterday although there were no upsets in the end as the ATP tournament reached the quarter-final stage.

Second-seeded Albert Costa of Spain looks set to go all the way to the final after overcoming Johan van Herck of Belgium in three sets. He has a date with Australian Scott Draper today.

Costa needed a while to get into his game against the Belgian right-hander before he managed to get his powerful groundstrokes going and came through 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Left-handed Draper, the eighth seed, also had a tough match against Venezuelan Nicolas Pereira and had to dig deep into his reserves before coming through 7-5 in the final set. He won the first 6-3 and lost the second 6-4.

Javier Sanchez's liking for the Ramat Hasharon courts remained very much in evidence in his

ORI LEWIS

match against Sargis Sargsian of Armenia. The fourth-seeded Spaniard, who was runner up to Jan Kroskcal of Slovakia in last year's tournament, easily won the first set against Sargsian, although he had to struggle in the second before winning 7-5 on a tiebreak in the second.

Javier Frana of Argentina had the easiest of all workouts when he played only four games against Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay. The score was 3-1 to the Argentinian when Filippini retired.

Today's play in the Canada Stadium begins with Sanchez taking on Frana, followed by Draper vs. Costa and concludes with the meeting between top-seeded MahiVai Washington, who had a rest day yesterday, against seventh-seeded Grant Stafford of South Africa.

No. 5 seed Herman Guny of Argentina plays upset man Marcos

Ondruska of South Africa on Court 14 at 3 pm. Ondruska is the only player to have ousted a seed, after he beat Spain's No. 3, Felix Mantilla, on Wednesday.

Israeli interest in the tournament remains in the doubles where wild card entries Noam Behr and Eyal Erlich play No. 3 seeds Jean Philippe Fleurant and Nicolas Pereira in the semifinals today.

Davis Cup duo Behr and Erlich beat Costa and Mantilla in a close encounter 7-5, 7-6 (4) yesterday. The French-Venezuelan pairing of Fleurant and Pereira managed to stop Israeli hopefuls Amir Hadad and Harel Levy, coming through easily for the loss of only four games.

The other doubles semifinal, between Ondruska and Stafford and South African Lloyd Haygarth and Gino van Emburgh of the US, takes place tomorrow.

Play today and tomorrow begins at 2 pm.

Rugby World Cup moves to Australia

AUCKLAND (Reuter) - Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea will host rugby league's World Cup in 1998, Super League official Maurice Lindsay said yesterday.

The tournament, involving teams loyal to media tycoon Rupert Murdoch's Super League, was originally scheduled to be staged in the northern hemisphere in 1997, Lindsay said in a statement.

Because of the World Cup rescheduling, Lindsay said, Australia would tour Britain and France in October and November next year.

"As a consequence of moving the World Cup, a window has opened up for Australia to tour the northern hemisphere," said Lindsay, chairman of the Super League International Rugby League Board which met yesterday.

Australia, which is expected to host the World Cup final, will play at least three Tests during the tour, he said.

New Zealand and Britain are aligned to Super League but Australia remains bitterly divided in its loyalties, with a majority of clubs and players remaining under the Australian Rugby League (ARL) banner.

The ARL, the traditional ruling body in Australia, is planning to stage its own international in the future involving Australian and overseas players on its payroll, involving Australian and overseas players on its payroll, involving Australian and overseas players on its payroll.

Lindsay said the decision to move the World Cup was not made as a challenge to the ARL. "There's no reason why we should stay away from Australia just because the ARL are still playing there," Lindsay said.

Rogers unlikely to play in World Series

NEW YORK (AP) - It appears Kenny Rogers has pitched for the last time this season.

While Darryl Strawberry probably will play in the World Series despite a fractured toe, Yankees manager Joe Torre doesn't seem likely to include Rogers on his roster, which must be submitted at the end of batting practice before tomorrow night's opener.

"I have to make a decision on how well he can pitch in his present physical condition," Torre said during Wednesday's practice at Yankee Stadium.

Rogers, the Yankees No. 4 starter, was hit hard against both Texas and Baltimore, and Torre said Rogers had trouble lifting his arm to the proper release point in last Saturday's game against the Orioles.

Torre's plan is to pitch Andy Pettite and David Cone in the first two games, though he hasn't finalized their order. Jimmy Key will pitch Game 3 at Atlanta or St. Louis.

"We'd like to go with four starters," Torre said. "We have some options, even though we'd rather it be Kenny."

Right-hander Ramiro Mendoza, who made 11 starts during the season, could be activated. So could right-hander Dave Pavlis and left-hander Dale Polley, who pitched in relief.

Torre isn't eager to use Rogers in relief. "We have to decide if Kenny is going to be useful out of the bullpen," Torre said. "I'm doubtful on that only because of the shoulder problems he's had all year."

Rogers, signed last winter to a \$20 million, four-year contract,

struggled to a 12-8 record with a 4.68 ERA during the regular season. According to Torre, Rogers will tell him he's healthy even when he's not.

"I want the ball whenever they can give it to me," Rogers said. Clearly, the left-hander would be disappointed if the Yankees take him off the active roster.

"Your ultimate goal is always to play in the World Series and win it," Rogers said. "He's going to make his decision. That's fine. That's not my job, to make that decision. I don't disagree with anything they do."

Strawberry, the other focus during the workout, took batting practice for the first time since he was hurt in Sunday's AL clincher.

"I expect to play," he said. "I expect to strap on the uniform and have me some fun, just like I've been doing."

While X-rays didn't reveal a break, team physician Dr. Stuart Hershson said a CAT scan taken Wednesday showed a 1-to-2 millimeter fracture at the top of Strawberry's right big toe. Strawberry limped slightly as he walked from the Yankees dugout to the outfield to stretch.

"Over the next several days he should improve," Hershson said. "I think we have a good chance he'll be able to play."

Hershson and Torre said they anticipated Strawberry will be able to play in the outfield in tomorrow's opener and not be limited to serving as the designated hitter.

Strawberry, who hit three homers against the Orioles last weekend, insisted on taking batting practice.

"I felt good at the batting cage," he said.

Haifa derby center of weekend soccer action

ORI LEWIS

THE Haifa derby stands out clearly as the match of the weekend in the sixth round of National League action.

This is the most open derby for years in the northern port city. With the green of Maccabi looking a little faded and the red of Hapoel not as dazzling as club president Rubie Shapira would like.

On form, Maccabi still has the upper hand, and lies sixth in the standings with eight points from its five matches. Hapoel is fourth from bottom with just four points.

Neither side has impressed in any of their matches so far in the present campaign, although Hapoel's only win in the five matches played since the start of the season came on the opening Saturday of the season, a 3-1 win over Maccabi Tel Aviv. Since then, however, the reds have had no success and only managed to gain one more point in a 2-2 draw with Hapoel Haifa.

Maccabi has looked a pale likeness of itself in past seasons, and ever since Haim Levor left for Spain and Eyal Berkowitz for England the greens have lacked inspiration and their performances have looked decidedly dull, with wins over Hapoel Jerusalem (1-0) and Hapoel Tel Aviv (3-1).

The pressure on the players at Kiryat Eliezer tomorrow will be enormous, particularly since fans on both sides have been calling for

a boycott of the match in light of the poor results of late. This is definitely the most open of derbies in many years.

Elsewhere, league leader Hapoel Petah Tikva will have a tough match at home against Hapoel Beersheba as it attempts to retain its slim one-point advantage at the top of the standings.

Betar Jerusalem, in second place will not be giving up the chase to regain the No. 1 position and will be hoping for a Hapoel Petah Tikva slip up as it looks unlikely to drop any of the points in its away encounter with lowly Zafirim Holon.

Third-placed Maccabi Tel Aviv will also be looking for a slip-up by the leaders, as they play another unfancied side, Bnei Yehuda, in the first match of the doubleheader at Ramat Gan. The second match there will be the one between Holon and Betar.

This weekend's National League fixtures (all matches kick off tomorrow at 3 pm unless otherwise stated): Zafirim Holon v. Betar Jerusalem, National Stadium, Ramat Gan, 5 pm; Bnei Yehuda v. Maccabi Tel Aviv, National Stadium, Ramat Gan; Hapoel Tel Aviv v. Maccabi Beersheba, Kiryat Eliezer, 5:45 pm (televized match on Channel 2); Hapoel Kiryat Sava v. Maccabi Petah Tikva, Kiryat Sava, today 7:30 pm; Hapoel Tel Aviv v. Hapoel Be'er Sheva, Bloomfield 4 pm; Hapoel Jerusalem v. Ironi Rishon LeZion, Teddy Stadium.

SCOREBOARD

NFL - Wednesday's results: Montreal 4, Calgary 2; NY Rangers 6, Pittsburgh 1; Florida 3, San Jose 3; Philadelphia 4, Anaheim 3.

Beit She'an holds Kitan solidarity strike

DAVID RUDGE

BEIT SHE'AN workers all went on strike yesterday in solidarity with the plight of workers at the town's threatened Kitan textile plant.

Protesters burned tires and blocked the town's four entrances on several occasions. Police kept a low profile, however, and eventually persuaded the protesters to disperse.

At a rally outside the local Histadrut offices, speakers denounced Kitan's decision to close the finishing plant and transfer its operations to the company's Dimona plant.

"I have worked for Kitan for 30 years. We are all one family there," said Shaul Malka, a member of the works committee at the plant.

"What management has done is a great injustice, not just to us but to the greater family of Beit She'an itself," said Malka. "We are fighting here for our livelihoods and the opportunity to work, not for villas or for Volvo cars but simply for the right to earn our daily bread honorably."

Malka said the general strike in the township had given him and the rest of the workers hope and strength to continue their struggle.

"There is still a chance that the plant will be reopened and we will be able to resume work there. The [general] strike gave me a sense of solidarity - that the rest of the

town is with us in our fight and that is why we will continue," said Malka.

Several Knesset members took part in the rally yesterday and vowed to help prevent the plant from closing.

Lod Mayor Maxim Levy, brother of foreign minister and Beit She'an resident David Levy, stressed that the development town vote and be crucial in bringing this government to power, and that the government now had an obligation to residents of these areas.

Pinni Kabalo, head of the Histadrut branch in Beit She'an said the solidarity strike yesterday was not just for the workers of the Kitan textile factory but for the whole town.

"It was agreed that a caucus would be established in the Knesset, including David Levy, to fight for the reopening of the Kitan textile plant, and the members of the caucus promised that if the government refused to help they would vote with the opposition in the proposed no-confidence vote next week," said Kabalo.

He said that from Sunday, a protest tent would be pitched outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem to press the government to deal with the plight of the Kitan workers and to create jobs in Beit She'an.



Mayor Ehud Olmert and Lynn Schusterman attend yesterday's dedication of the Succat Shalom Jerusalem Schusterman Center for Children and Families, designed to help combat child abuse. The Schusterman family foundation made a significant contribution to the \$2.4 million center. (Joe Malcolm)

WEATHER

Hells	21-32	Tiberias	20-36
Alula	17-36	Semaria	18-27
Tel Aviv	20-32	Jerusalem	18-29
Beer Sheva	20-34	Dead Sea	28-38
Eilat	23-38		

Forecast: Heat wave. Southwest: Heat wave, which will cool off in the evening.

AROUND THE WORLD

	C	F	C	F	
Amsterdam	05	41	14	57	cloudy
Berlin	04	39	11	52	clear
Chengde	10	50	21	70	clear
Chicago	18	64	21	70	cloudy
Frankfurt	08	46	13	55	clear
Helsinki	02	35	08	46	cloudy
London	07	45	08	46	clear
Los Angeles	19	66	23	73	clear
Madrid	10	50	15	59	clear
Moscow	03	37	08	46	clear
New York	18	64	21	70	cloudy
Paris	09	48	15	59	clear
Rome	12	54	16	61	cloudy
Stockholm	07	45	15	59	clear
Sydney	17	63	18	64	clear
Tokyo	13	55	18	64	clear
Toronto	08	46	14	57	clear
Warsaw	05	41	08	46	clear
Zurich	06	43	08	46	clear

Ethiopian leaders divided over bringing Falash Mura here

THE Health Ministry will soon give the cabinet a highly detailed proposal for promoting AIDS prevention in the Ethiopian community. Although the costs have not yet been worked out, Dr. Zvi Ben-Yishai, head of the ministry's AIDS steering committee, believes the project can be tackled with help from other ministries and voluntary organizations.

The issue of HIV among Ethiopian immigrants, which triggered a violent demonstration in Jerusalem earlier this year over Magedo David Adom's refusal to use blood donated by them, was raised again this week. This time, it involved the 2,500 Falash Mura, Ethiopian Jews forced to convert to Christianity, living in the Israeli Embassy compound in Addis Ababa while awaiting permission to come here.

Two years ago, Ethiopian Jews here demonstrated to demand that Falash Mura be allowed to come here under the Law of Return, but there is now a divergence of views.

Shlomo Mula, secretary of the Unified Ethiopian-Immigrants' Organization, stated yesterday that their aliya should be barred because 10 percent of them are HIV carriers.

BATSHEVA TSUR and JUDY SIEGEL

But MK Adisu Massala (Labor), the organization's head, demanded they be allowed in and accused the establishment of being responsible for delays that resulted in their infection abroad.

"The government must do something immediately. These people are living in sub-human conditions and, if there is a 10% incidence of AIDS among them now, I hate to think what other diseases they will contract if they continue coming at such a slow pace," Massala retorted.

Massala charged that the present government has "not implemented even one of the decisions" taken by the previous government after the violent riots.

"I call on Prime Minister [Binyamin] Netanyahu to do so and to make arrangements for all those in Addis to come immediately," he said. "About the remainder of Ethiopians who call themselves Falash Mura (various) I estimated to number between 30,000 and several million, new decisions can be taken later."

Massala flatly denied a report that the com-

munity is trying to prevent the remaining Falash Mura from coming. He said that Mula "has always been opposed to them because they are Christians."

Mula said the 500 HIV carriers among Ethiopian Jews from two waves of immigration, especially Operation Solomon, are "enough," and that adding another dozen or so each week is not a good idea.

Both Massala and former health minister MK Ephraim Sneh argued that it is impossible to halt the arrival of people whose immigration has already been approved. Sneh added that "previous ethnic groups who had various infectious diseases were allowed to immigrate despite their health."

Ben-Yishai said that contrary to the situation before the blood-donation uproar, "leaders of the Ethiopian immigrant community are now working with us in full cooperation" to educate themselves about the disease and how to prevent it from spreading.

The AIDS danger to non-Ethiopians is minimal, the risk is among themselves, he said. It is World Health Organization policy, he added, to prevent HIV carriers from immigrating.

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Sara Netanyahu's ex-hubbie nixes book

JUDY SIEGEL and news agencies

THE first husband of Sara Netanyahu has dropped plans to write a kiss-and-tell book about their marriage, a friend said yesterday.

The ex-husband, Doron Neuberger, 37, of Kibbutz Ga'ash, has told kibbutz members that he changed his mind and would not write the book, kibbutz secretary Danny Kait said.

Israel Radio said Neuberger announced the decision after being told he could not stay at the kibbutz if he wrote it. Kait denied yesterday that Neuberger had been given an ultimatum.

Neuberger never discussed his book plans in public, but Israeli media reported earlier this month that he decided to write the unflattering memoirs because he was "horrified" at reports suggesting she had a say in sensitive affairs of state.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's aides had met several times with Neuberger in unsuccessful appeals to drop the project.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu's elder son Yariv was yesterday treated at Hadassah-University Hospital for dislocation of two front teeth and trauma to his upper lip. The four-year-old boy, who was in great pain, had tripped while running and fallen on his face, a hospital spokesman said.

He was brought to the Ein Kerem hospital by his mother Sara. Later, his father arrived at the hospital as well. Prof. Arye Shiner, a maxillo-facial expert, examined and treated him. He said that there was no danger the teeth would be lost, but asked that the boy be brought back next week for examination.

Less than two weeks ago, his younger brother Avner was rushed to Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, where he was treated for a dislocated shoulder. His mother said the injury had occurred when he was playing at home. Doctors quickly reset the bone in its socket and he was taken home.

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